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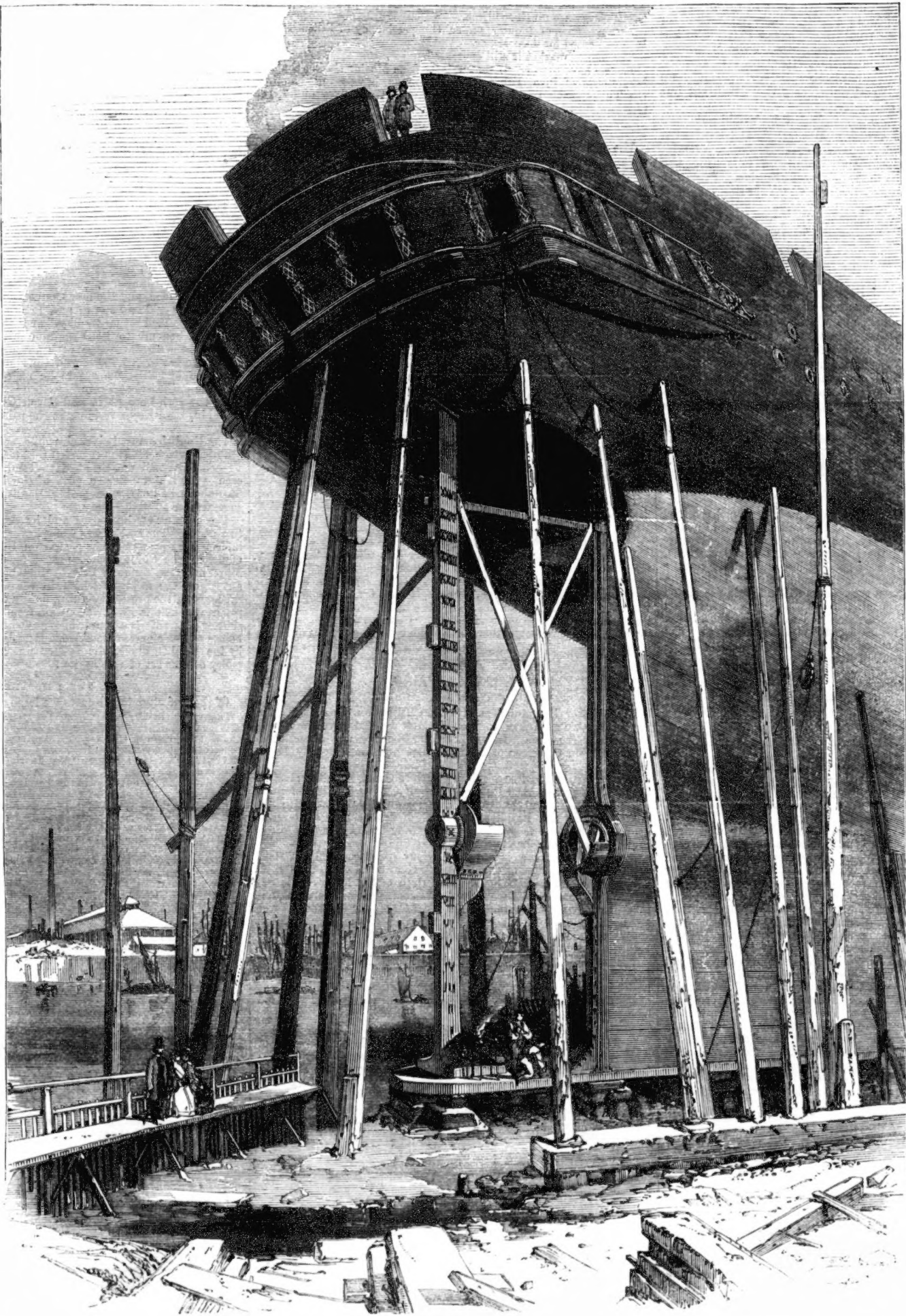
THE FRENCH EMPEROR AND NEW-YEARS DAY.

THE Emperor has spoken, but has said nothing except that he is glad to be on such good terms with England. Every one seems to have expected that on the 1st of January he would, at his grand reception, throw out some hints as to his future policy in Europe and in the East; but nothing of the kind has transpired. What he has said, however, seems to be taken in good part on this side of the Channel as a guarantee for the rest, as it undoubtedly ought to be. Accordingly, the *Times*, which has treated Louis Napoleon on the hot-and-cold, Russian-bath principle for the last eleven years—alternately bullying and toadying—is inclined to do the latter just now. "Her history" (that of France), said this journal the other day, "is made, as the time of Louis XIV. or the First Napoleon, part of the history of any other country; and it may almost be said that the histories of other countries are only known to each other so far as they come in contact with the history of France." This is a foolish piece of flattery, and as unfounded as it is unbecoming. The history of France is connected with that of other nations in so far that France has always been, and always will be, a quarrelsome nation, or because, as Chateaubriand puts it, "La France sera toujours soldat." But surely the history of the Scandinavian countries, which in point of military prowess are quite equal, and in political freedom are superior, to France, can be written without even touching upon French affairs. So also could that of Russia until the outbreak of the French Revolution, and a considerable portion of that of Prussia during the most interesting period of her growth from an inconsiderable duchy to a powerful kingdom. Take one of the very periods selected by the *Times*—that of Louis XIV. What has France, then, to do with Charles XII., except, indeed, through Voltaire, his historian? What with Peter the Great, except through the influence of French luxury upon his rude but sensual tastes? The father of "the great Frederick," again, had not much

to thank France for, nor to hate her for either; and Frederick the Great himself was much more impressed by French literature than his fortunes were affected by French armies. The great influence which France has undoubtedly had on the other States of Europe has

ancient and unceasing intrigues in Spain are equally notorious and have been equally unavailing. While England, Russia, and Prussia have been gaining territory, France has, in the literal sense of the words, lost ground. She has won the day in many a brilliant battle, but has seldom been successful in a general war.

France is not by any means irresistible, then, as a military Power. All that can be said of her in this respect is that she is a formidable enemy, and always ready to fight. Indeed, the excessive pugnacity of the French seems, more than anything else, to have had the effect of weakening the nation as a whole. Without counting the periods of exhaustion by which all great struggles are necessarily followed, France, as a fighting nation, has suffered much from not knowing when to stop. She has sought constantly to gratify all her ambitious designs at once, and accordingly has never yet succeeded in gaining for any length of time what she considers her natural limits, to say nothing of establishing a strong dominion in the East, which has long been one of her favourite projects under every form of government. The present Emperor, it is true, is pursuing quite a different system. He may entertain—and doubtless does entertain—schemes as ambitious as those of Francis I., of Louis XIV., and of the First Napoleon; but he will not risk their success by endeavouring to carry them out by means of one great war. He gained prestige and placed himself on a footing of equality with the other great Sovereigns of Europe by the Russian War. The war in Italy gave him two small provinces, one of which, however—that of the Nice district—is of far greater importance than is generally supposed, from the position it offers to the French Navy on the Mediterranean coast, where it will



THE IRON-CASED STEAM-FRIGATE "WARRIOR"—VIEW OF THE STERN (SKETCHED THE DAY PRECEDING THE LAUNCH)—SEE PAGE 5

been exercised, not, as the *Times* suggests, through her arms, but by means of her admirably-written books and her excellent wices. From the earliest period of her history she has always been interfering in the affairs of Italy, and has never gained a permanent footing in the Italian peninsula. Her

soon possess another enormous military port, forming a worthy pendant to that of Toulon. Finally—or rather thirdly, for the end has not yet come—Napoleon III., by a peaceful military occupation, entered upon with the consent of the other great Powers, has got the chief districts in Syria at his command



as completely as he has Rome. His term of occupation has been prolonged; and if in another six months the General at the head of the French army in Syria reports (as he is sure to do) that the country is still in a disturbed state, and that to remove the French troops will be to invite another massacre of the Christians, then, however averse the Western Powers may be to see France establish herself permanently in the heart of the Turkish empire, which of them will be in favour of going to war for the purpose of ejecting her from her well-chosen position? Prussia has no interest in the matter; Austria, with a discontented Hungary, and with her rule in Venetia threatened both from within and from without, would certainly not like to give any cause of offence to France; Russia might find that it suited her, not to condemn the example of France, but to imitate it—not to quarrel with her, but to make terms; thus England, single-handed, and with a divided Cabinet, would certainly not interfere, and the partition of the Ottoman empire, not ostensibly, perhaps, but at least in fact, would have commenced.

Still, up to the present time, and in every period of her history, except when through internal troubles or the weakness consequent upon previous wars she has been powerless for aggression, France has been troublesome in the extreme to her neighbours, but she has never been really dangerous. However, she had never a shrewder ruler than Napoleon III., and the many minor qualities which he possesses may, perhaps, make up for the absence of really great ones, of a more brilliant but also of a more hazardous character.

If Napoleon I. had a little less ambition he would not have conceived the project of entering Moscow at the head of a victorious army, as he had previously entered Berlin, Vienna, and the great cities of Spain and Italy, and of adding the triumph of the Kremlin to that of the Pyramids. Probably Napoleon III. is not haunted by any very vast designs; but his head is full of a number of little ones, which may become great if fitting opportunities present themselves. We do not imagine that he will attempt simultaneously to gain a portion of the Turkish territory, a portion of Italy, and the whole of the left bank of the Rhine. But he has so laid his plans that he may undertake any one of these enterprises with a certain chance of success, if he only sets to work with caution and with continued assurances of his peaceable intentions. He is too sensible a Monarch, and, above all, too wise a financier, to desire war for its own sake. But possession is a great point in politics as in law, and he already holds Syria. He will, of course, not proclaim Syria a department of the French empire, but he will continue to maintain his army there; and it will really belong to France if (as appears probable) the other Powers of Europe do not call upon him to retire from it.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Tuesday (New-Year's Day) the Emperor of the French received the members of the diplomatic corps at the Tuileries. Lord Cowley, as the senior member of the body, tendered to his Majesty the customary congratulations, and the Emperor replied in a few words, expressing his thankfulness for the good wishes, and, adding that he regarded the future with confidence, being convinced that the friendly understanding between the Powers will maintain peace. To the President of the Corps Legislatif the Emperor expressed his confidence in the general concurrence and support of that body. The *Moniteur* gives the following account of the reception:—"The Corps Diplomatique was assembled in the Throne-room. His Excellency Lord Cowley, Ambassador of her Britannic Majesty, spoke in the name of the diplomatic body:—

"SIRE,
"The members of the diplomatic body assembled here have the honour to offer to your Majesty, through me, the expression of their respectful homage on the occasion of the new year.

"The diplomatic body, Sire, is always happy to have an opportunity of renewing its wishes for the happiness of your Majesty and of your august family.

"The Emperor replied:—

"I thank the diplomatic body for the kind wishes it has just addressed to me. I look with confidence to the future, persuaded that the friendly understanding of the great Powers will assure the maintenance of peace, which is the object of all my desires."

A discussion is said to have taken place lately in a Cabinet Council on the manner in which debates are henceforth to be conducted in the Chambers. Count de Morny opposed the proposed changes. He expressed himself as afraid lest the absolute power now vested in the Emperor should pass into the hands of the representative bodies. His Majesty would be restricted in the power of going to war, and of carrying out commercial reforms; in fact, the pleasant and unique way in which the Government had hitherto been conducted would be changed, and he warned the Council against the consequences. The absolute views of the Count met but little support from his colleagues, it is added, and he was left in a considerable minority.

The *Moniteur* publishes a resolution of the Minister of the Interior authorising the Directors General of his department to give decisions in affairs of lesser importance. The Directors General are to constitute a superior council for the discussion of all questions of greater moment, and are to assemble for this purpose twice a week, under the presidency of the Minister of the Interior. The official journal states that financial events in foreign countries have influenced the French money market in a manner to be regretted, but, declares the report, that the French Government is under the necessity of having recourse to a new loan to be without any foundation.

AUSTRIA.

Count Teleky has been set at liberty by the Emperor of Austria. This act appears to have been accompanied by certain stipulations relative to Count Teleky's future participation in political affairs.

The official *Wiener Zeitung* announces that in consequence of the death of the King of Prussia the Austrian Court will go into mourning for four weeks. Both the Court theatres were closed on Thursday by Imperial orders. This journal declares all reports of the retirement of Count Rechberg from the Ministry to be unfounded.

The Emperor is stated to have positively sanctioned the incorporation of the Servian Worwodschaft with Hungary. His Majesty has summoned, through an autograph letter addressed to the President of the Transylvanian Chancery Court, a conference of the most eminent persons of the various classes, to deliberate on the early organisation of the Transylvanian Diet. The privileges of the Diet are to be determined according to the ancient rights of the citizens, reserved, however, within the limits of the Imperial diploma of the 29th of October.

It deserves special notice that in more than one Hungarian Comitate Kossuth has been elected a member of the district council by general acclamation.

The *Wiener Zeitung* contains two Imperial decrees which show that the financial position of Austria is as desperate as ever. The first orders that, in view of the present extraordinary state of things, the forced currency of banknotes in Lombardo-Venetia shall be

maintained; and the second orders that the payment of the interest on the National Loan shall be effected in banknotes with the correspondingagio.

The Emperor is said to have decided in Council definitively against entertaining the question of the sale of Venetia.

RUSSIA.

A new Russian loan amounting to 100,000,000 of silver roubles has been contracted and completely raised by subscription among the merchants and other classes of the inhabitants of Russia.

It is generally announced in Russia, and partially believed, that on and from the 18th of February next, being the anniversary of the Emperor's coming to the throne, all serfs will be emancipated.

There is a rumour in the political circles of St. Petersburg that an army of 150,000 men is to be concentrated in Russian Poland, and also that a loan of 100,000,000 roubles will be raised in Russia Proper.

TURKEY.

The Jeddah claims have been definitively settled. They are to be paid in full Turkish Consols at 53.

The Grand Vizier's report on the Roumelian mission has been published. The Vizier declares that the complaints were exaggerated. The Christians, he says, are not exceptionally oppressed, but the Greek clergy are much to blame.

A commission of inquiry, under the presidency of Ethem Pacha, is to be named for Asia Minor.

The money market is still depressed.

Letters have been received at Trieste from Mostar stating that the inhabitants of Piva, Dropbek, and Banjano, have revolted against the Turks, with the intention of placing themselves under the Government of Montenegro.

AMERICA.

The most important news brought by the American mail is the resignation of General Cass, Secretary of State, caused, it is said, by the refusal of the Cabinet to grant the request of the Commandant of Fort Moultrie, Charleston, for reinforcements. Attorney-General Black, who shares Mr. Buchanan's views on the subject of secession, had been appointed to the office of Secretary of State, rendered vacant by the resignation of General Cass. Mr. Trescott, the Assistant Secretary of State, had also resigned. Mr. P. F. Thomas had accepted the Secretaryship of the Treasury, vacated by Mr. Cobb. Several of the Members of Congress from the Southern States had issued a manifesto, advising the slaveholding States to separate from the Union. In the South the secession movement was carried on with great vigour, though there is evidently much reluctance in some of the States to push matters to extremities.

Senator Toombs, of Georgia, a very influential slaveholder, had written a letter stating that if a majority of the Republican party could agree to such an amendment of the Constitution as would prevent the passing of Personal Liberty Bills, then it would be the duty of the South to postpone final action until it was seen how the Northern legislatures would deal with the matter. A moderate man had been elected Governor of South Carolina, and a feeling in favour of compromise was rapidly gaining strength in both Houses of Congress.

The admission of Kansas into the Union will meet with no opposition from the Democrats.

The Senate of North Carolina has passed a bill for arming the State.

President Buchanan had issued a proclamation appointing the 4th of January as a day of humiliation and prayer.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

We have news from the Cape of the 21st ultimo. Sir George Grey was at Cape Town. Great complaint was made at the little progress effected in public business. British Kaffraria has been proclaimed a separate colony. The agitation for the separation of the eastern provinces from the west was gaining ground, and a league had been formed to promote the object. Immigration prospects are reported to be favourable, there being plenty of work in the outlying districts.

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

THE SICILIES.—PIEDMONT.

King Victor Emmanuel returned to Turin on Saturday. An immense crowd assembled to meet his Majesty, and gave him a very enthusiastic reception. In the evening the city was illuminated. The Sardinian Chamber of Deputies has been dissolved by Royal decree.

A report that the French fleet had left Gaeta is not confirmed. The siege is proceeding with great activity. The bombardment is continued day and night, and is causing great destruction in the city. The King, to be out of the reach of danger, passes the night on board a Spanish frigate in the harbour, and the Queen, according to the last accounts, has left the city.

An order has been issued that every province in Italy shall mobilise one battalion of the National Guard. Naples, it is said, will organise several battalions. The state of the latter city is described as a complete scene of chaos and confusion, as well as of disappointment and discontent. Another reactionary movement was attempted on the 30th ult. by the lazzaroni. It was, however, soon suppressed and several arrests made. The priests are said to have been the instigators.

The report that M. Farini had tendered his resignation as Lieutenant of the King at Naples is stated to be premature, and his health is reported as improving. Poerio has been elected President of the Electoral Committee. The Duke of San Donato was wounded by a private enemy on Sunday.

ROME.

In Rome the clerical party are dissatisfied with the Emperor of Austria for having conceded so much to his subjects. The circulation of Francis II.'s last proclamation to the Neapolitans has been prohibited. The reactionary movements in the Abruzzi, where comparative tranquillity had begun to prevail, are again increasing, and are strengthened by numbers of Neapolitan soldiers. The general conviction appears to be that the difficulties of the Papal Government are drawing to a crisis.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—The National Portrait Gallery has recently received some very important additions. A full-length portrait of Alexander Pope seated in an armchair, with a lady in the background reaching down a book from a shelf, is of the class especially desirable for an institution of this kind. It is painted by Jervas. Another portrait of considerable interest is an effective likeness of Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Paul's, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and signed and dated 1711.

REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.—Mr. Bodkin, in the charge which he delivered on Tuesday, as Assistant Judge of the Middlesex Sessions, spoke in a very encouraging manner of the influence which reformatory institutions had exercised in diminishing juvenile crime. Facts, however, are better than opinions, and Mr. Bodkin mentioned one that carries conviction with it. He said that there is not a single case of a boy to be tried at these Sessions on a criminal charge.

A SOLDIER KILLED BY HIS COMRADE.—An inquest was held on Saturday at the Sergeants' Mess-room at the Hut Barracks, Woolwich-common, before Mr. Carttar, respecting the death of Charles Knight, a private of the 2nd battalion of the Military Train Corps, which took place on Christmas day, in consequence of injuries received during a scuffle with a comrade named John May. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased was smoking near the barracks when May came up, and some dispute took place, which resulted in a fight, and deceased fell heavily on a sharp piece of granite, which inflicted the fatal wound described. He was removed to the hospital of the corps, where he expired the same night. The jury returned a verdict of "Man-slaughter."

CHINA.

OPERATIONS OF THE ALLIES.—THE TREATY.

We have now ample news from China. We learn that the An-tin Gate of Peking was surrendered at noon on October 13; and the position within it and on the adjacent wall marked out and strengthened. A crowd of Chinese idlers pressed on our line of sentries, but showed no feeling but that of curiosity, and when asked to assist us in bringing some brass guns within our inclosure did so readily. It must be remembered that this surrender took place in consequence of a negotiation with the Chinese; and as a condition of the giving up of the gate Sir Hope Grant had promised that Peking should not be attacked, nor its inhabitants molested. The next day, the 14th, Lord Elgin learned the sad fate of the rest of the prisoners, and the bodies of our murdered countrymen were delivered up by the mandarins. The body of Brabazon, who was beheaded, was not produced. Lord Elgin and Sir Hope Grant shared the general horror and indignation felt by the whole camp at the cruelty added to the treachery of the Chinese—for the bodies of the prisoners bore signs of the tortures they had suffered—and they both wrote to Prince Kung, brother of the Emperor, speaking with great severity of the conduct of the Chinese authorities, and announcing that, as the Summer Palace of the Emperor had been the scene of some of the cruelties, it should be burned to the ground. This was carried out on the 18th; and the whole mass of Royal buildings—stretching for seven miles, and inclosed in parks and gardens of great beauty, with lakes and belts of woodlands intermingled—were given to the flames, the soldiers of Sir John Michel's division doing the work. In addition to this positive punishment, by way of avenging our countrymen, Lord Elgin announced that within forty-eight hours the Chinese Government should pay 300,000 taels—over £100,000—(as compensation to the families of the murdered prisoners), and that if this payment were delayed, or the Treaty of Tien-Tsin with the additional Convention not signed without delay, the Imperial Palace in the centre of Peking itself would be likewise destroyed. The money was paid within the stipulated time, and the treaty was ratified and the convention (the tenor of which we have previously given) was signed on the 24th.

The signature of the convention and the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty took place at the Hall of Ceremonies, Peking, on the 24th. Owing to rumours that the Chinese meditated treachery, Lord Elgin was escorted by a force of 3000 men. Prince Kung met him at the door and led him to the dais, where Lord Elgin took the place of honour, Kung sitting "at his right," the inferior position according to Chinese etiquette. The Treaty of Tien-Tsin was formally ratified, and the new Convention was signed. Lord Elgin's manner was cold and stern; and Prince Kung, though conciliating in words, seemed rather "sulky," and, it is said, hesitated in doing the usual honours to Lord Elgin on his departure. The next day, the 25th, the Chinese treaty with France was signed. The French are to receive 60,000,000f.; and the churches and cemeteries of old possessed by Christians are to be restored, including the "Roman Catholic Cathedral at Peking."

On the 28th Lord Elgin and Baron Gros took up their residence at Peking, Lord Elgin residing in the palace belonging to the Prince of I.

The English army, it is said, would not retire from Peking till the 9th of November. It is reported that 3000 of our troops and a small French force will winter at Tien-Tsin. An allied force will also occupy the Taku forts: a part of the French force will winter at Shanghai; and of the remaining English force, some go home and some winter at Hong-Kong.

The burning of the palace and its dependent buildings occupied two days. The smoke was wafted over Peking, and the people were informed by proclamations posted on the walls that England thus punished the Chinese Government for its treachery. "At Yuen-Min-Yuen (the Summer Palace) the tablets of the dynasty were preserved, on the safety of which, in the opinion of the Chinese, the existence of the present reigning family depends. By the people the palace was held in great veneration from its being the constant residence of the Emperor and the place where all the great princes and nobles of the empire assembled." The destruction was accomplished by the English alone, the French not agreeing with us as to the policy of this act of retribution.

THE PRISONERS.

Of the unfortunate prisoners we learn—

Twenty-six, in all, were captured—seven Englishmen, nineteen Sikhs; of these two Englishmen (Parkes and Loch) and eleven Sikhs were released, and four Englishmen (De Norman, Bowby, Anderson, and Phipps), with eight Sikhs, died of their sufferings. Brabazon was beheaded. "It was on the 17th that the remains of poor De Norman, Anderson, Bowby, and Phipps were consigned to the grave. At noon of that day we all assembled to bear them to their last resting-place. The coffins were each on a separate gun-carriage. A portion of the King's Dragon Guards and Irregular Cavalry formed the advance; a body of infantry followed, with the band playing the 'Dead March.' Lord Elgin and Sir Hope Grant were chief mourners. Numbers of officers of both armies, including the French Commander-in-Chief, closed the procession. The Russian Minister, General Ignatieff—with that consideration and in the liberal spirit which have distinguished him in all his intercourse with the army ever since their first landing at Peking—had placed the Russian Cemetery at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief. They were all buried in one grave; the service was performed by the Chaplain to the Forces, the Rev. Mr. McGee; and one of the most striking occurrences was the presence at the grave, in their vestments, of a Roman Catholic and a Greek priest, who joined their prayers to ours over the remains of our murdered countrymen." Anderson died on the ninth and De Norman on the seventeenth day of their captivity. Mr. Bowby endured only till the 22nd of September, four days after he was seized.

PEKING.

Another correspondent says of the recovered bodies:—

The bodies could only be recognised by the dresses in which, in some instances, they appear to have been wrapped after having been stripped. A description of the state of these poor victims is too horrifying to be related. The tightness of the cord with which they were bound ate into the flesh, and caused a lingering and painful death by mortification. The bodies of the sows were given to the Sikh cavalry, who, as is the custom, burnt them.

Peking itself is described as a wretched place:—

Nothing can be more deplorable. Peking itself is quite a city of the past; the huge frame and limbs of the giant remain, but second childhood is upon him. The great halls of the Six Boards, the great departments of the State, are in ruins, and apparently unfrequented. Every handsome road or bridge—and there are some that have been fair to see—is in disrepair. The palace of Prince Tsai, in which Lord Elgin has taken up his quarters, looks as if no comfortable being had occupied it these twenty years. So with everything. Prince Kung came with a retinue like Sir John Falstaff's disreputable levy.

THE AMERICANS AND THE CHINESE.

Lord Elgin forwards an autograph of the Emperor, found in the Summer Palace, respecting the American Embassy. It relates to the question of the presentation of the American Minister, Mr. Ward, to the Emperor when he visited Peking last year. As Lord Elgin remarks, "It is important, inasmuch as it contains a distinct assertion on the Emperor's part to the effect that Mr. Ward's offer to pay to him the same marks of respect as to his own President was absurd because it implied the placing of China on an equal rank with the barbarian nations. The Emperor's affectation of superiority is not in itself of much consequence to other Sovereigns, but it has an unfavourable bearing as regards the validity of the treaty rights which they obtain from him on behalf of their subjects, because it imparts to them in some sort the character of concessions made of pure grace by a suzerain to vassals, and enjoyed, therefore, under some not very definable conditions of fealty."

We have this day (7th October) perused the reply of the American bar-barians to the communication of Kwiliang and his colleagues.

(It shows that) in the matter of their presentation at Court nothing more can be done to bring them to reason. Besides, these barbarians, by their avowal that their respect for his Majesty the Emperor is the same as that they feel for their pih-li-si-tien-eh (President), just place China on a par

with the barbarians of the south and east, an arrogation of greatness which is simply ridiculous. The proposition of yesterday, that they should have an interview with the Princes, need not either be entertained.

THE PRIZE-MONEY.

The prize-money taken in the Emperor's Summer Palace amounts (for the troops engaged there) to about £23,000, and is made up by a sum of £14,000 in sycee silver, which the French handed over (in accordance with the terms of the treaty) as the British share of what they had found in the Imperial treasury, and by one of £9000 realised by the sale by auction in the camp of the articles which English officers had looted, and which Sir Hope Grant made them give up, declaring on their words of honour that they had done so. The articles brought large prices, and as Sir Hope Grant and his two Generals of Division, Napier and Michel, gave up their shares, it allowed for the army the following scale:—First-class field officers, £60; second-class field officers, £50; chaplains, £40; lieutenants, £30; ensigns, £20; sergeants, &c., £7 10s.; privates, £5.

MR. PARKES'S NARRATIVE OF HIS CAPTIVITY.

The narrative of his captivity forwarded by Mr. Parkes extends to six newspaper columns of ordinary type. He narrates the conversations at Tung-Chow with Hang-ki on the 17th, and the negotiations with Imperial Commissioners the next day. That day he also found the camping-ground agreed on for the English occupied by the Chinese troops, and he protested. He gives the same account of the capture as has already been given by Mr. Loch, and then describes his interview with San-ko-lin-sin:—

The Prince talked in a very forbidding tone. "Listen! You can talk reason; you have gained two victories to our one. Twice you have dared to take the Peiho Forts; why does not that content you? And now you presume to give out (the Prince here alluded to the proclamation of the Commander-in-Chief) that you will attack any force that stops your march on Tung-Chow. I am now doing that. You say that you do not direct these military movements, but I know your name, and that you instigate all the evil that your people commit. You have also used bold language in the presence of the Prince of I, and it is time that foreigners should be taught respect for Chinese nobles and Ministers."

I endeavoured to explain the mistakes of the Prince; told him distinctly what my functions were; that I had come to Tung-Chow by express agreement with the Imperial Commissioners, and solely in the interest of peace; and I again begged him to show the same respect to an English flag of truce that we had always paid to those so repeatedly sent in by the Chinese.

The Prince, however, simply laughed at all this, and, going towards a house that was close by, directed the soldiers to bring me after him.

On arriving at the house I was again thrown on my knees before him, and the Prince asked me if I would write for him.

Having asked what it was that he wished me to write, he said, "Write to your people, and tell them to stop the attack."

"It would be useless for me to do so," I replied, "as I cannot control or influence military movements in any way. I will not deceive your Highness by leading you to suppose that anything I might write would have such an effect."

"I see you continue obstinate," he said, "and that you will be of no use to me."

I then heard him give directions to take Mr. Loch, the sower, and myself to the Prince of I, but to conduct the escort into Chang-Kea-Wan.

While waiting in a tent for some time, two officers of San-ko-lin-sin's suite conversed with Mr. Parkes to the same effect, saying he ought to stop the attack, &c. They were then taken in a rough, jolting cart to Tung-Chow, there dragged before a mandarin and questioned, at one time dragged out as if for execution by a party of excited soldiers, and then suddenly hurried off to Pekin, loaded with chains, and thrown into a filthy prison:—

Being exhausted with fatigue and want of food, which I had not tasted for upwards of twenty-four hours, I fell asleep, but was soon made sensible of my position by being called up and again carried before the same board of inquisitors. It was then about midnight, but the hour did not prevent the collection of a large crowd, composed, however, in this instance of police-runners, gaolers, victors, and the other numerous myrmidons of Chinese law. The mandarins, as I was placed kneeling in my chains before them, warned me that they would force the truth from me if I did not give it willingly; and in proof of their earnestness they ordered four torturers to seize me, even before they began to put their questions, by the ears and the hair of the head and face. They first asked me if I were a Chinese. I told them they had only to look at my face and hair to see that I was not. Their next questions related to my age, length of residence in China, how and where I had been employed, &c. They then proceeded as follows:—

Inquisitors—State the name of your head man.

Answer—Which one do you mean—the Ambassador, General, or Admiral?

Inquisitors (angrily)—You have no such functionaries. Don't presume to use such titles.

Here the torturers suited their actions to the tone of the mandarins by pulling simultaneously at my hair, ears, &c.

Inquisitors—Now give the name of your head man.

Answer—Which one?

Inquisitors—The head of your soldiers.

Answer (in English)—Lieut.-General Sir Hope Grant.

Inquisitors—What?

Answer (in English)—Lieut.-General Sir Hope Grant.

Inquisitors—Say something that we can understand.

Answer—I am obliged to use the English terms, as you will not let me give you them in Chinese.

They attempted to write down, in Chinese sounds, "Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant;" but not succeeding, they asked the name of another head man.

Answer (in English)—Ambassador Extraordinary, the Earl of Elgin.

Finding it equally impossible to write this down in Chinese, or to get on with the examination, they told me I might revert to Chinese names and titles; and I then gave them those of the Ambassador and the Commanders-in-Chief.

Inquisitors—How many soldiers have you?

Answer—Not less than 20,000 fighting men.

Inquisitors—That is false. [Torturers clutched me as before.] Repeat how many.

Answer—Not less than 20,000 fighting-men, in which I do not include followers. I have stated that once to you, and have no other answer to give.

Here I was again threatened, both by mandarins and torturers; but, deeming it dangerous to answer from any statement I had once made, I adhered to that which I had already given them, and it was taken down.

Inquisitors—How many soldiers have the French?

Answer—I am less acquainted with their force, but they cannot have less than 10,000 fighting-men.

Inquisitors—You are lying again.

The same question was repeated and enforced by the torturers; I returned the same answer, and it was noted down. I then explained that, being myself a civilian, I could not be expected to be familiar with military matters, or to know all the particulars of so large an army as the present combined force.

Inquisitors—So large an army, do you call it? What are 30,000 men? They are a mere nothing.

They then proceeded to examine me in the same strain as to the number of our cavalry and artillery, ships, steamers, horses, Chinese coolies, &c., and, in particular, of the range of our field and siege guns, which I gave them at three miles and upwards, together with other particulars of their destructive properties. Hearing that the horses of the force came from India, they questioned me as to the resources of that country, and were much displeased with my statement that it was within twenty days' sail of China, and had an army of upwards of 300,000 men, and a population of more than 100,000,000. They also equally disapproved of my estimate of the population of Great Britain, which I stated at about 30,000,000. But the remark which probably gave them most displeasure, and caused me some pain at the hands of the torturers, was the use on my part of a term for Her Majesty denoting equality of rank with the Emperor. They had inquired after our "Prince," to which I had replied by stating that we had many princes, both in England and India, but that they were all under one Sovereign, as in the case of the empire of China.

"What do you mean by such language?" they said. "You have yourself shown that you have been long in China, that you can speak our language and read our books; and you must know, therefore, that there is but one Emperor, who rules over all lands. It is your duty to communicate your superior knowledge on this subject to your countrymen, instead of encouraging them in their extravagant ideas."

They then insisted that I had often been at Pekin, that I had confederated here, and that they would force me to reveal their names. I firmly denied this, and told them that I knew but three persons in Pekin.

Inquisitors—Name them.

Answer—The two Imperial Commissioners—Prince of I and Muh-yin; and the Assistant Commissioner Hang-ki.

I made this reply in the hope of dismissing their suspicions, which I could

see were very strong on this point; and the idea that through our Chinese coolies, or in some other way, we had set treason at work within the walls of the capital, was one which evidently gave them considerable apprehensions.

Towards the close of the examination, throughout which I was compelled to remain kneeling on the stone floor, I obtained their permission to make a statement on my own account. I then told them why I and the other gentlemen of my party had come to Tung-Chow; that we were all employed in the cause of peace and not of war; but, although acting under a flag of truce, and admitted to interviews with the Imperial Commissioners, we had been seized, and were now being treated not even as prisoners of war, but as common felons, and as offenders against Chinese law. I was urging that this great, and to me unaccountable, mistake should not be persisted in, when they interrupted me by saying, "That is your account, but we have another story. Besides, if, as you state, you are a civilian, and have nothing to do with soldiers or their movements, why are you always seen with the advance?" To this I answered that we always kept an interpreter in the front, to be ready to receive overtures or communications from the Chinese authorities, and to look after the interests of the people. The examination ended, I was ordered back to prison.

In his interviews with the President of the Board of Punishments he found the same ignorance of foreign countries. His fellow-prisoners were kind and respectful to him; most of them were burglars and murderers.

The first interview with Hang-ki merely disclosed an effort on the part of the Chinese to induce Mr. Parkes to open negotiations. The second interview was very interesting:—

At about two p.m., Sept. 26, I received a visit from Hang-ki, attended by two prison inspectors, Gan and Choo Lou-yays. I first spoke about being put in the same prison with Loch—a small request, and easily granted if they wished to show us any humanity.

Hang-ki followed with a long speech. Grand councils had been held, he said, on the subject of foreign relations. It was considered that the hostilities of the allies were very different on this to all previous occasions, as, by advancing on Pekin, they are attacking the Emperor himself, and not, as heretofore, the Emperor's Viceroy. The Emperor is therefore on his defence, and must fight for his throne and dynasty. He has therefore determined to retire to the Hunting Palace at Jehol, in Tartary, and to call in the aid of the forty-eight Mongol Princes, each of whom can furnish, probably, 20,000 men. But supposing that all is lost—that is, Pekin taken—and the Imperial forces retreat, fighting, beyond the frontier, the dismemberment of the empire will follow, and all trade will be at an end. Is this the course that must be adopted or not? The majority of Princes and Ministers are for it. The Prince of Ching, Prince of I, San-ko-lin-sin, and others, say that peace cannot be made with the allies, because they always make negotiations an opportunity for putting in fresh demands; also that commercial relations are far more costly than profitable to China, for, although some 4,000,000 of taels are received from foreigners annually as duties, the claims for indemnities—first 21,000,000 dollars in 1842, then 6,000,000 taels in 1853, and now 10,000,000 taels more—almost equal the amount that has reached the Imperial Treasury from the same source during the above period. The personage just named, together with a large majority of their advisers, urge war. The Prince of Kung, the brother of the Emperor, who has now the direction of the foreign question, would be glad to see some other course, but unless I point one out no alternative presents itself. If I will not do this, and affairs continue to go wrong, I shall make myself a mark for the public fury, which cannot be restrained at a moment of extremity.

I reply that the conclusion of peace is a very simple matter, and might be managed at any moment. All that is necessary is that both parties should sincerely wish for it. There can be no doubt as to the desire of Great Britain to be at peace with China. What has Lord Elgin come all this great distance for but to make peace? But any peace that we conclude must secure to us our rights and national honour. The refusal of China to admit the principle of equality in her relations with foreign countries is the source of all the foreign troubles that have come upon her. Had it not been for those unreasonable pretensions, to which foreign powers will no longer submit, she would not have seen foreign armies within her borders, and would have saved the large sums paid as indemnities. I cannot understand the singular distinction which he draws between former wars and the present one, or why the Emperor should still persist in fighting. But if Pekin be taken, and his Majesty should fly, I do not see how he is to take the population of the eighteen provinces of China with him, and it is population that makes trade.

In reply to a demand from his questioner that he should write to Lord Elgin, Parkes said:—

It is quite out of my power to say anything about the discontinuance of hostilities, and that were I to make such a proposal it would be wholly useless, as it would have no effect upon the proceedings of the English Ambassador. I have suggested a plan (I added)—namely, that you should send out your deputies, and return Mr. Loch and myself with them, in which case we would be answerable for their safety, and they could make any representations or overtures that you might desire. I cannot undertake to do more. As to your menace, I know that I am in danger as long as I am in your hands, because it is so uncommon thing for the Chinese to deal cruelly with their prisoners, or even to take their lives. But, while I should prepare for the worst, I know also that my fate will be determined, not by your will, but by that of God. On the other hand, it is for you to bear in mind that, although you would do the allied force but little injury by killing the few prisoners who have fallen into your hands, you would by such an act bring down upon yourselves a terrible vengeance. I also reminded Hang-ki of the different treatment which he received when detained as a prisoner by the allies at Canton in 1853; and I again begged that, in view of whatever might happen to us, Mr. Loch and myself might at least have the satisfaction of being put in the same prison.

He was informed he would be in no danger during the next two or three days. On the 29th Hang-ki again appeared, and stated that the Prince of Kung had disapproved of the manner in which he had been treated, and intimated his intention of being strictly cautious in his intercourse with the foreigners. Parkes replied in a polite tone. "Listen," said Hang-ki to the three mandarins who were with him, "he declares that his nation will act according to justice. Take off his chains."

In several subsequent interviews Hang-ki tried to induce Mr. Parkes to write at once to Lord Elgin to make peace. Mr. Parkes disclaimed all influence in the matter. He was also desirous that Mr. Parkes should decline that he had been treated with kindness. Mr. Parkes also declined this, as he was still detained in the common prison. The next day both he and Mr. Loch were removed to a temple, where they received good food, beds, &c., and were made comfortable. Here Hang-ki had long conversations with Mr. Parkes, but all going over the old ground, objecting to our march on Pekin, &c. They blamed San-ko-lin-sin and the Prince of I, and admitted that the arrest of the prisoners was treacherous. In subsequent interviews letters from Mr. Wade to Parkes were delivered by the Chinese.

Negotiations were now going on; the Summer Palace was taken, and the Chinese yielded up their prisoners:—

Unable to rely upon the assurance of any mandarin, we anxiously awaited the hour named, and could see that considerable uneasiness was evinced by Hang-ki, who visited us several times in the course of the morning. At one time he whispered to me, "I am particularly anxious to get you away, for reasons that I will tell you of at a future time, and I will not wait for the hour named to send you off." He was now willing to give us some information respecting the other prisoners. Upwards of twenty had been taken, he said; but, with a view to their safe custody, they had been divided into small parties and sent away to different district cities in the interior. It would take some days to get them all back, and he had heard that four or five of them had sickened and died. Those in Pekin numbered eight in all, inclusive of Mr. Loch and myself, and we were all to be sent out together.

At last, at two o'clock, he told us that all the prisoners had been assembled, and that we could take our departure. We were placed in covered carts without being allowed to see each other, and were escorted by a large party of soldiers and mandarins through streets which were a deserted appearance to the Se-Che, or north-western gate of the city. We soon saw, with thankful hearts, as those great portals opened, and then immediately closed behind us, that we were already free men, for our guard, not daring to follow us out of the city, had left to ourselves the pleasant task of finding our own way to the allied camp.

The Russian Government has received intelligence from Pekin up to the 18th of November, confirming previous accounts. There was no change in the position of affairs, which was considered satisfactory.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT MAIL-PACKET, while proceeding between Ryde and Cowes on Wednesday, was struck near the stern by a shot from the shore, where gunnery practice was going on. The steersman had just altered his course, or the shot would have raked the stern, and probably have killed some of the passengers.

SCOTLAND.

GAS EXPLOSION.—An explosion of gas took place at the South-Western Railway station, Glasgow, on Wednesday week, which, although fortunately not attended with loss of life, caused a serious destruction of property. The gas had accumulated in the cellars underneath, and ignited upon a door being opened. Doors and windows were blown out, the floor of the booking-office was lifted up and sent into the street, whilst a huge iron gate, several tons in weight, was shattered to pieces. Of course there were some cases of personal injury, and many narrow escapes.

CRUEL MURDER OF A CHILD.—After a two days' trial, before Lord Cowan, John McFayden, a young man of Irish origin, has been convicted of having, in August last, inveigled a well-dressed child into accompanying him to the Banks of the Clyde, opposite Clydevale Works, where he first hanged and then thrust him into the river, holding him down with a stick till he was dead. Fayden then took away the child's clothes with the intention of pawing them. An attempt was made to prove him insane; but the evidence of the physicians who had examined him was conflicting. The prisoner had been confined in the Glasgow Reformatory for several years, and the opinion of the governor of that establishment was, that he was not exactly insane, but a person of low organisation, being mentally, morally, and physically dwarfed. The verdict was accompanied by a recommendation to mercy. Lord Cowan, in pronouncing sentence of death, said that doubtless the recommendation of the jury would be attended to. Fayden maintained a stoical indifference throughout the whole case, which was only broken by an occasional fit of levity.

THE PROVINCES.

ACCIDENT AT SEA.—On the night of Tuesday week a sad accident happened at the mouth of Berwick harbour, by which five poor fellows lost their lives. They had been out at the white fishing, but owing to the quantity of ice were unable to enter the harbour on their return. The crew consisted of four brothers, the fifth being cousin to the others. How they met their fate does not yet appear, as it was night and dark; but we are told that the cries of the drowning men were distinctly heard without any effort being made to save them.

THE MURDER AT BURY.—The young man named Lot Ivanson Leather, who shot a girl at Bury a few days ago, was brought before the magistrates yesterday week, charged with the attempted murder. It was shown that the girl, Jane Mooney, had refused to receive the prisoner as her suitor, which moved him to commit the crime. After firing a pistol at her and wounding her he made several successive attempts upon his own life—by shooting, hanging, drowning, and ultimately cut his throat with a knife. He is committed for trial.

THE HETTON COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—The Hetton Coal Company have acted in a handsome manner towards the relatives of the unfortunate men who suffered in their colliery a week or two since. They have undertaken to maintain a liberal weekly allowance for the widows during their lives, or till they marry, and to their children until they are old enough to earn their own support. They will also attend to the education of the children.

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER NEAR SHEFFIELD.—Two men, Joseph Tibbottson and Joseph English, were brought before the magistrate at Sheffield a few days ago on the charge of shooting, with intent to murder, William Crookes, file-cutter and assistant gamekeeper, at his house at Smithy Wood, on the 15th ult. Crookes himself was able to appear, and deposed to being shot while at work at his files a little before five o'clock that morning. The prisoners were remanded.

THE BRADFORD FREE-TRADE BANQUET.—The proposed Free-trade banquet at Bradford to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade, and Mr. Cobden, M.P., has assumed a more important character. The Bradford committee, representing the worsted trade, have resolved to ask the commercial men of Leeds, Huddersfield, and the woollen district to co-operate with those of the worsted district in giving an invitation to the three gentlemen named, and it has been ascertained that Leeds and Huddersfield are prepared to aid the movement.

THE DISTRESS IN COVENTRY.—The distress among the ribbon-weavers continues without any diminution in point of numbers, and has lately been increased in intensity by the unusual severity of the weather, even at this season. Contributions, however, come in pretty freely, and the relieving committee have been enabled to relieve much of the misery about them.

EXECUTIONS.—On the morning of the 1st inst. James Johnson, private of the 41st Regiment, was hanged at Winchester Gaol. The culprit was convicted at the last Assizes of the wilful murder of Sergeant Chipp and Corporal Coles, by shooting them with a rifle as they sat playing at backgammon in Aldershot barracks on the 29th of November.—Milner Lockey and Thomas Smith were executed at Durham on Thursday week, the former for the murder of Harrison, at Morpeth; the latter for the murder of Baty, at Winstan. Both died composedly.—A man named Twigg, who murdered his wife, is to be hanged at Stafford to-day (Saturday).

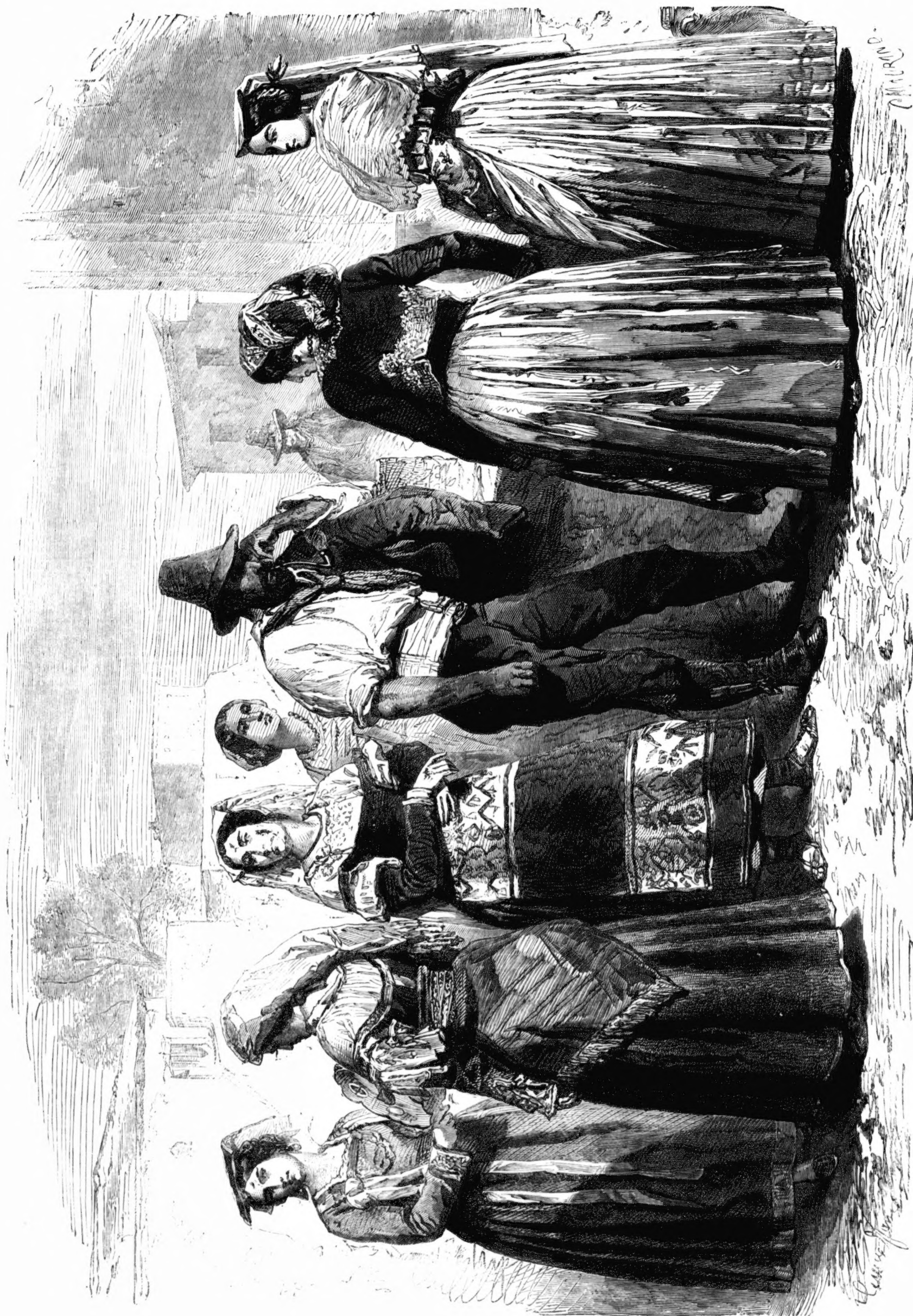
RIVER SOIL.—Two farmers at Somerton have been committed for trial at the Assizes on a charge of cutting away a portion of the bank of the River Parrett. Their object was to benefit a portion of their own land by the deposit from the river water thus made to overflow; but the effect to others was likely to be less profitable.

GARIBALDI AT HOME.—M. Alexandre Dumas publishes the following details respecting Garibaldi in the *Independence of Naples*:—"The General left Naples with only ten piasters in his pocket, or rather in the pocket of Basso, his secretary. When the latter remarked that so small a sum would not last them long, Garibaldi replied, 'The harvest has been good, so we shall not want for corn; the orchards also looked promising in spring, so we shall not doubt find plenty of fruit.' I left seven horses with Tecci to be sold; we can therefore manage very well till next campaign.' On arriving at Capri, instead of the fairy palace and gardens described in the French journals, he found his old house, which had been imperfectly repaired in his absence by a mason, who presented his bill as soon as the General landed. As it came to more than ten piasters, Garibaldi confessed his inability to pay it, and asked the man to wait a while. 'What!' said the mason, 'have you been the Dictator of two kingdoms, and not put by enough to pay twenty-two piasters? I do not believe a word of it.' The General assured him that he had but ten, and offered to give them on account. The man refused, saying that he should appeal to the tribunals, and so the matter rests for the present. The house in question contains nine rooms, all on the ground floor. The vestibule, which also serves as a dining-room, has the General's own room on the right. Under this room is the cistern, so that the General has a damp floor under his feet, and the rain falls on him from the roof, as the mason who was so pressing for payment had only half done his work. With all its drawbacks, however, Garibaldi likes the room so well that he will not sleep in any other. In the middle of the house is a corkscrew staircase, leading to the terrace on the roof. The furniture of the General's own room consists of a wooden bedstead with two mattresses, a rickety table by the bedside, covered with green baize, a single chair, and a bookcase, containing works on history and war. Its principal ornament is a portrait of the General's daughter when four years old; over the bed's head is a medallion, containing some of his deceased wife's hair, and also some of his mother's. The cattle on the island consists of eight cows, a bull, and some calves; also five donkeys and two horses."

DISASTERS AT SEA.—As was to be feared, the storm of Sunday morning which accompanied the breaking up of the frost has made itself felt on the coast, and marked its passage by a considerable amount of damage to both life and property afloat. The French ship *Jean Baptiste*, with a valuable cargo, was driven on shore under the French South Foreland. All hands were got safely on shore, with the exception of the captain, who unfortunately was drowned.—In Cawsand Bay a schooner was wrecked, the captain, mate, and three men losing their lives.—At Portland Bay a Swedish ship, called the *Irene*, was driven against the new breakwater, when the pilot who had charge of her was drowned.—The American ship *Golden Star*, from Mobile to Liverpool, has been totally lost off the Wexford coast. Only the mate and six hands were saved, the captain, his wife, and servant, together with fifteen hands, being drowned.—The *Bourgeois*, three masts, 911 tons, went ashore at Equehen, near Boulogne, at midnight on Monday.—The *Arville*, three masts, about 400 tons, went ashore at midnight at the Pointe aux Oies, near Boulogne. All hands were saved. It is reported that two others have gone ashore near Equehen.—It is stated that her Majesty's brig *Camilla*, 16 guns, which has been missing for some considerable time, has been posted on Lloyd's books as having been totally lost, with all on board, in the China seas. The information appears to have been obtained from a private printed circular published in China. The *Camilla* had been placed on the China station about three years since. Her officers and crew numbered about 200 in all.—On New-Year's Day the fatal *Goodwin Sands* were the scene of two wrecks, the one being a French barque, and the other a Dutch vessel. Several lives, it is feared, were lost. On the French coast, and along the western shores of England, several other catastrophes of an equally distressing character took place.—On Sunday, about noon, a schooner called the *Norval*, from Harfleur, bound for Plymouth in ballast, was wrecked on the Chell beach at Portun, and the crew saved by one of the most daring and gallant efforts on record.—The iron screw steam-ship *Queen Victoria*, Captain Lambert, laden with a telegraphic cable, shipped for conveyance to Rangoon, but destined now for connecting Malta with Alexandria, got aground near Mount Edgumbe.

M. MICHAEL CHEVALIER, the well-known political economist, has been named Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

A SCHOOL-TEACHER has been fined £20, with an alternative of three months' imprisonment, for having entered Halstead Grammar School by means of a forged certificate of character.



PEASANTRY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF ROME AND TERRACINA. — (FROM A SKETCH BY M. BARRIAS.)

PEASANTRY NEAR
ROME
AND TERRACINA.

It is probable that the political changes which have already occurred in Italy will soon be followed by marked alterations in the habits and customs of the people. Already the facilities which free institutions present for a better acquaintance with the people of other countries have been successful in modifying the habits of such States as have come under their influence; and in dress, diet, and amusements the results of fuller intercourse between various nations are observed first to exhibit themselves.

We make these remarks since it may not be long before all our original romantic notions respecting Italian peasantry in picturesque holiday attire will have no further foundation in reality; and, even if the British smock-frock do not take the place of the loose-sleeved jacket, and the linsey cloak that of the embroidered shawl or white mantilla, there will be some change which will ill assort with the old pictures of Italian peasantry sitting under the trellised vines and waiting for the grapes to ripen, who have figured in unnumbered illustrations.

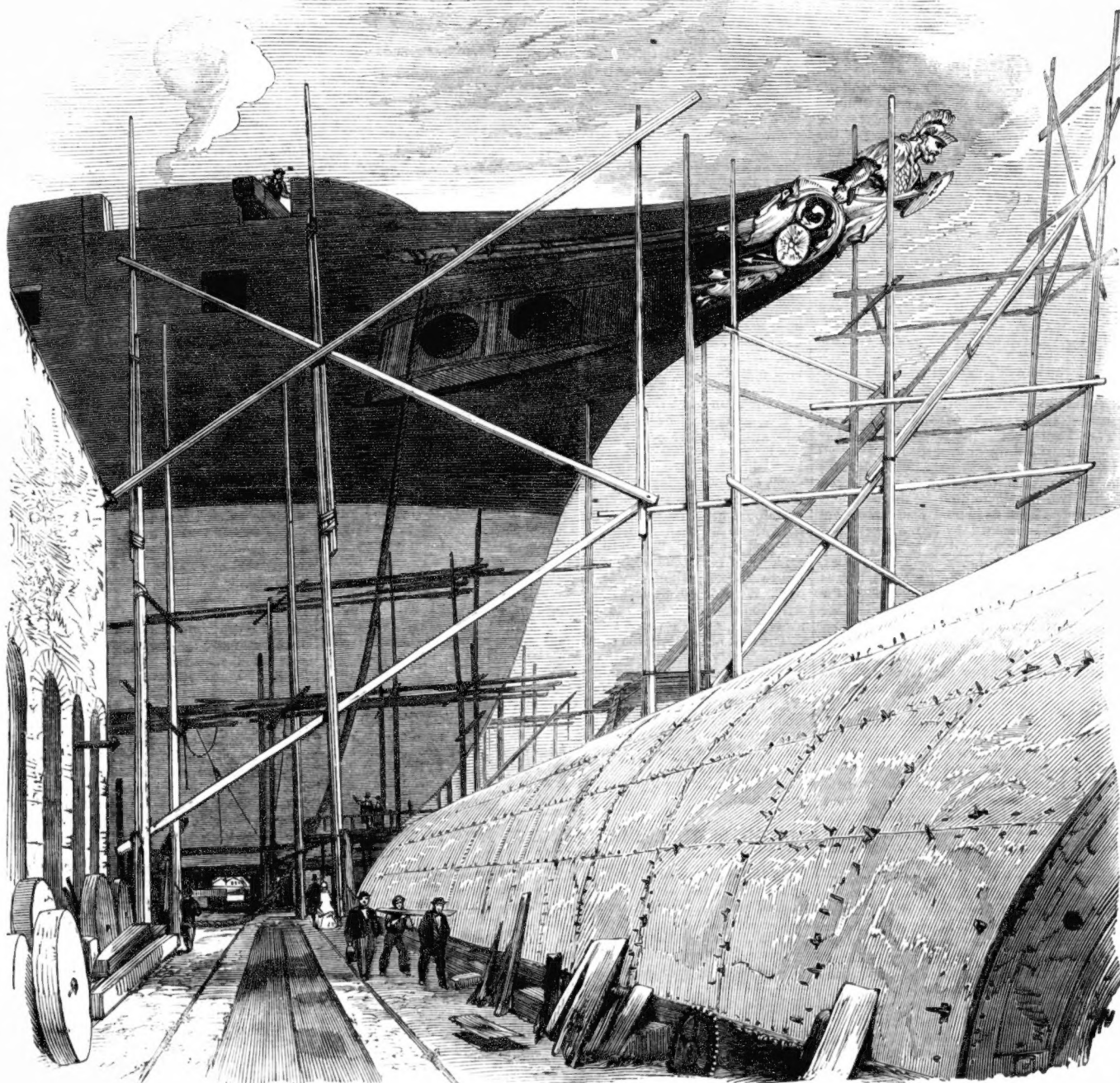
Revolutions, especially those in the cause of freedom, are very apt to produce sudden and healthy changes. It may be true that they overturn some remarkably picturesque institutions; but the picturesque is too often the decayed, the rotten; and then the sooner it is out of the way the better for public safety. Around the Pope's two especial precincts, how-

ever, the peasantry retain the dresses with which we have been used to associate them — strange, gaudy, striking costumes amongst the women; and, truth to tell, good, serviceable sort of clothes (but often in gay colours) for the men. Even the ancient sandal may be found fastened to the ankles, which are left uncovered by the closely-fitting skirts, which, decorated with a gorgeous apron, some of the women still wear, faithful to their customs; while the complete sleeved jacket, richly embroidered at cuffs and back, contrasts admirably with the white long mantilla or the silken cap which falls upon it.

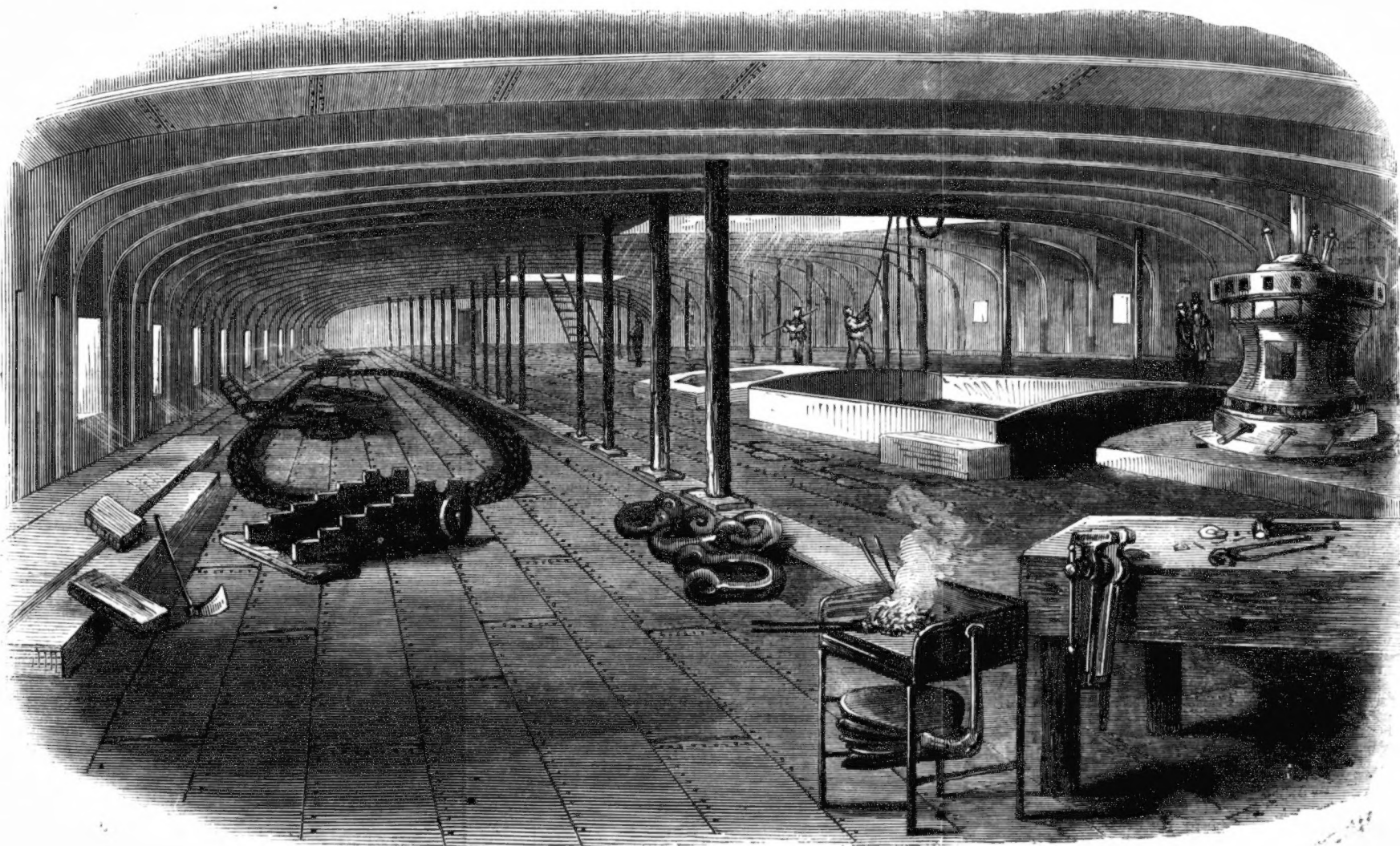
But Italian peasant women lose their beauty soon. It is of a bright, glittering, flashing, fiery nature, which seems to burn out quickly, and then only the remains of it give to the countenance an air of melancholy and premature age. Young, and in all the lustre of bright eyes and rich, braided hair, the peasant girls of Rome and Terracina are most striking, both in costume and appearance; while some of the men are fine, robust fellows, whose fine and regular features, shaded by their big moustaches and beards, look classical even under the broad sugarloaf hat, and with the addition of the inevitable pipe.

LAUNCH OF THE
WARRIOR.

THIS formidable iron-cased frigate, the largest man-of-war ever built, and more than 1500 tons larger than the largest vessel in the world after the Great Eastern, was safely launched into the river on Satur-



THE IRON CASED STEAM-FRIGATE WARRIOR.—VIEW OF THE BOW.



THE UPPER-DECK OF THE WARRIOR.

day. Although the day was one of those spitefully cold ones in which the frost often indulges when a coming south wind has given it notice to quit, the interest of the proceedings, both national and mechanical, attracted a very large crowd of visitors of high and low degree to Bow-creek. Most of the tall chimneys of the neighbourhood had been let out for the day, and were crowded by enthusiastic amateurs in shipbuilding, who could be seen in the aerial distance blowing their fingers and waiting patiently for the interesting moment when the signal-gun was to announce the starting of the marine Colossus. She looked splendid, agreeably disappointing those who had come down expecting to see a huge shapeless "steam-ram," bristling with iron plates, and who, to their surprise, found a noble ship built on the finest lines, and exhibiting the most elegant proportions, looking, as the nautical men said, not half her tonnage, so symmetrical was she in form and outline. As the Warrior was an administrative child of the late Government, it was to be expected that some of its members would be present to witness the debut of their offspring. Accordingly Sir John Pakington was there, and General Peel, Colonel Knox, and some half dozen of their friends. The Lords of the Admiralty present were Sir Richard Dundas and Captain Frederick.

At one time it seemed extremely probable that the anxious spectators would be disappointed of the expected ceremony, for the Warrior not only did not go off the slip at once, but was only got to move at all after some delay, and the exertion of all sorts of compulsion. Sir John Pakington himself named the ship—the first time, we believe, since the launch of the Thunderer, that that ceremony has ever been performed to a man-of-war except by a lady. The vessel was duly named and told to go except by a lady. The vessel seemed most reluctant to its element, but this the Warrior seemed most reluctant to do. The intense frost of the previous night had, in fact, frozen her down to the "ways" so firmly that nothing would move her. Hydraulic presses, which are always kept fixed and ready in case of such contreponts, were worked and pumped to the utmost they would bear; a heavy gun was fired on her upper deck to start her by concussion, but in vain; she only moved slowly for a few inches, when the frozen grease on the slips brought her up again fast as ever. The tide was at its height, and it was evident that if she did not start in a few minutes she could not be launched till the next spring tides. A hawser was made fast to a powerful tug, hundreds of hammers made the ways vibrate, while the men on board ran from side to side to start her, but all to no purpose. At last two other tugs came to the assistance of the first, and fortunately their united efforts were successful. The Warrior moved a little slowly, then stopped, then started again, and, gaining momentum as she descended, slid rapidly down into the water, and was safely afloat just as the tide began to fall.

Of course, in her present extremely light draught of water, it is difficult to judge how she will appear when brought down to her load-line. As far, however, as can now be seen, she will, when finished, be one of the most superb and, from her extremely fine lines fore and aft, one of the lightest-looking frigates in the world. When in sea-going trim her main-deck portlights will be about 8½ feet from the water; and in this respect she possesses an immense advantage over her French rival *La Gloire*, whose ports are only 5 feet 9 inches—much too near the water to make her guns of any use in a seaway. In point of speed, also, the Warrior will probably be unrivalled even by that wonderfully fast frigate the *Ariadne*, or her sister the *Galatea*. Among other improvements the Warrior will inaugurate is one which has been most urgently needed for years—an improvement on the present cumbersome and awkward ship's gun-carriage. Those which will be furnished to her have the stands fixed, the gun running backwards and forwards in a slide, with a pivot for training the gun fore and aft placed about the centre of the gun. The advantage of this is that it will allow the present wide portholes to be reduced to half their width without at all interfering with the range of the gun fore and aft. Thus the portholes of the Warrior will be 3 feet 7 inches high, and only 2 wide instead of 4—a reduction which of course diminishes by one half the chance of a shot or shell entering the aperture. For the space of nearly two feet, also, all round the ports the armour-plates are 7 inches thick, instead of 11.

This is not the place to enter into criticism as to the fitness or unfitness of the great ship for the work she is intended to perform; but the account of her launch would be incomplete without a few details as to her size, cost, and construction.

The dimensions of the Warrior are:—Extreme length over all, 120 feet; ditto breadth, 58 feet; depth from spar-deck to keel, 41 feet 6 inches. Her tonnage is no less than 6177 tons, builders' measurement. The engines are of 1250 nominal horse-power, and are magnificent specimens of machinery. Their total weight, with boilers, will be 950 tons; but for these the Warrior is only able to stow 950 tons of coal, or little more than enough for six days' steaming. The armament, reckoning her as a 50-gun frigate, with masts and stores complete, will weigh from 1200 to 1500 tons, which will give her, with hull and armour, a total weight, when ready for sea, of about 9000 tons, or about the weight of the hull of the Great Eastern when launched. With the fine lines, great length, and immense horse power of the Warrior, a speed of not less than fourteen knots is counted upon as certain. One row of the armour-plates with which the greater part of the broadside will hereafter be covered is already in its place, covering a space of 5 feet deep by 213 feet long on each side. Only the lowest row has been thus bolted, and more than this it would be unwise to place, as the immense weight might strain the ship during the launch. The others will be bolted in her piece by piece while in the Victoria Dock.

The bows and stern of the ship are divided into twenty-seven water-tight compartments, and are shut off from the engine-room and fighting part of the ship by wrought-iron transverse bulkheads. As the armour is not intended to cover the whole of the ship, these compartments will afford increased security. They may be ridden by shot in every direction without affecting her safety; nay, even were the bows and stern shot clean away, the centre would still remain a floating battery, 210 feet in length, 27 feet in depth, and 23 feet wide.

There is no external keel to the ship, but an inner kind of girder, which acts as a keelson. This is formed of immense slabs of wrought-iron 1½ inch thick, and 3 feet 6 inches deep. To it are hoisted the ribs—massive wrought-iron T-shaped beams an inch thick, and made in joints 5 feet long by 2 deep up to 5 feet below the water-line, where their depth is diminished so as to form a deep ledge or angle, on which the armour-plates and their teak lining rest. These immense ribs, except where the portholes intervene, are only 22 inches apart. Above the keelson, and inside the ribs, are five immensely strong box-girders, which go the whole length of the ship from stem to stern, and from which spring diagonal bands, tying every rib together. The orlop-deck is of wood, and 24 feet above the keel; the main-deck is of iron, and cased with wood, and 9 feet above the orlop; the upper-deck is also of wrought-iron, cased with wood, and 7 feet 9 inches above the main. All these decks are carried on wrought-iron beams of the most powerful description, to which both decks and ribs and all are bolted as in one piece. The "skin" of the ship, as it is termed, which covers all these ribs on the outside, is also of wrought-iron, 1½ inch thick under the bottom, to nearly 1 inch thick up to the spar-deck. From 5 feet below the water-line up to the upper-deck comes, in addition to this, the great armour of teak and iron over all. This is formed of a double casing of the hardest teak, 20 inches thick, with the beams laid at right angles to one another. Over these, again, come the plates of iron, so as in all to case the broadside of the vessel with 20 inches of solid teak and 5 inches of the very finest wrought-iron. Each plate is formed of scrap iron carefully welded into a slab about 16 feet long by 1 foot broad and 1½ inches thick, and weighing about twelve tons. All the plates are, we believe, mortised into one another, and bolted through the teak and iron into the inner ribs of the ship. These

bolts are counter-sunk outside, so as to have their heads level with the surface of the plate. The total weight of the plates on both sides is 1000 tons.

The tests applied to the plates furnished by the builders of the Warrior were of the most trying character. Some plates were fired at with 68-pounders at 200 yards distance, and were literally cut in half by balls fired one after another on a line drawn on the surface, each ball striking immediately below its predecessor. Upon some other plates the ball made a circular indentation nearly as deep as the plates, exactly of the form of the projectile, and as though a mould had been taken of it in some soft and yielding substance. It was only after repeated trials that it was decided that the plates should be of annealed scrap iron.

All iron-clad frigates must roll slowly and deeply if in their construction special pains are not taken to guard against such a defect. Beyond a certain degree of inclination the weight of both sides leans over on one, and thus the roll must always be both slow and very deep. To counteract such motion the Warrior has two ridges of iron on each side of her bottom, like leeboards, and extending almost along her entire length. Each of these plates is about 2 feet deep, and the resistance which they offer to her rolling is, of course, immense. Roll, however, to a certain extent she must; but she will undoubtedly roll less than any iron frigate built without the ridges we have mentioned.

The armament of this magnificent man-of-war is not yet entirely decided upon; but there is little doubt that it will consist of thirty-six 68-pounder 95 cwt. guns on the main-deck, ten Armstrong 70-pounders on the spar-deck, and two pivot Armstrong 100-pounders, one forward and one aft—making forty-eight in all. With only ten broadside guns on an upper-deck of 400 feet, there is, of course, a space of nearly 80 feet between each gun. Therefore, without in the least exposing the men or crowding the "quarters," the upper-deck armament can be doubled at any time. On her trial no more guns than those we have mentioned will be placed; but, if the result of her first cruise is such as to show she can carry them easily, the number of broadside upper-deck 70-pounders will be increased from ten to twenty, all, of course, breech-loaders. The masts and spars of the Warrior will be very light—merely those of an ordinary frigate, with the exception that the crossjack or mizen-yard will be done away with, and the vessel rigged as a barque.

The cost of this terrible machine is proportionate to its power. It will probably not be less than £500,000. On this point, however, there is room for considerable reassurance. It does not follow that the aggregate charge of the Navy will be increased because the charge is greater in particular ships. On the contrary, in proportion as single vessels are made more powerful and expensive, the number of vessels declines. We have now as strong a fleet as we ever had; but it consists of fewer ships than were afloat fifty years ago. What we spend upon single specimens we may save in numbers, and the fact may lead us to contemplate even a fleet of Warriors without much alarm.

BLIND MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

On the evening of New-Year's Day a very interesting meeting was held in the schoolroom of the Pear-street and Duck-lane Ragged Schools, Westminster, composed of a number of blind persons and their friends. T. Gurney, Esq., treasurer of the society, presided. After they had been supplied with tea and cake by several ladies who were present, the meeting commenced by the singing of a hymn, and a prayer being offered up by a blind teacher. The chairman said he would not detain the meeting by anything from himself, and at once introduced Mr. Potter, the honorary secretary, who briefly stated that the society being of such recent formation no report could be produced. They had met more especially to give publicity to their society, to strengthen each other's hands, and to elicit the sympathy of the benevolent. All they asked was assistance in the formation of the society, which was composed of totally blind persons of both sexes who had united themselves together in the admirable spirit of "self-help" for the purpose of assisting each other, by means of a club, in the time of sickness and death. Religious and intellectual improvement was also their aim; for this they held weekly, monthly, and quarterly meetings at the above-named schools. Books with raised letters were very much needed, and he had great pleasure in presenting them with a parcel of such books, natural-history prints, maps, &c., sent by a lady that afternoon.

Captain Bolton then came forward, and having made some observations breathing the kindest spirit for those afflicted with blindness, presented to the society the Four Gospels in raised letters. This gift was received with many tokens of gratitude.

Mr. Baylis, a blind man, with deep pathos gave his experience of the wants and afflictions of the blind. Never to behold the sunlight—never to gaze on Creation's beauties—never to view the features or smiles of loved ones—was indeed a dreadful thing. He acknowledged that "dear England" had cared for and sympathised with them more than any other country; but they often felt that, owing to their blindness, they were despised, cast aside as useless, treated with suspicion, and branded with deceit. They could work; they were able to do much more than people generally thought; but their endeavours were often hindered by cold rebuffs and bitter scorn. Often had he, as he walked along, summoned his courage and used his keenest sensibilities to pursue his way through busy streets with steady step in an accurate direction, but he overheard, "He is an impostor!" and every nerve shrank, and his blood ran coldly through his veins, and he relapsed into his former feeling of helplessness and degradation. Nothing but the chilling influence of mendicancy and separation from the friends whom, though he could not see, he tenderly loved, in some parish workhouse, and a pauper's grave, was before him. This he recoiled from, and thus the society would help him to escape from.

The speaker was followed by Mr. Dean, another blind man, who observed that every other class of men had their clubs and benefit societies, and why should not the blind? Others had their reading-rooms and mutual-improvement classes; why not they? They had intellect, they had power of memory and thought; it only needed development. Homer, Milton, and many others who were honoured for their genius, were blind; and even amongst those present there might be some latent talent which, when touched by the spark of elementary knowledge, would burst into a bright and inextinguishable flame.

The meeting was next addressed by Mr. Barfield, City missionary, and by T. Gurney, Esq., who expressed his sympathy for the society, and promised to aid it in any way he could.

During the evening several pieces were sung by the blind in a very effective manner; and, after a vote of thanks to the chairman, ladies, and secretary, the meeting concluded with the Doxology.

The benevolent are appealed to for their assistance in the praiseworthy objects of the society. Contributions will be thankfully received at the school.

ENGLISH CHILDREN IN PARIS.—The fast given each half-year to the children attending the Sunday-school of the church in the Rue de la Madeleine took place lately in a gymnasium in the Champs Elysées. The little guests assembled at the church early in the afternoon, and, after prayers and a short exhortation from the Rev. Mr. Gurney, adjourned to the gymnasium. Here all sorts of old English games, sack-racing, leap-frog, blind-man's buff, &c., filled up the first part of the entertainment. Tea, plum-puddings, cakes, and such fare succeeded, and after several Christmas carols and songs had been sung the Christmas-tree was lighted—a ceremony for the performance of which the parents had been invited; and the drawing of a lottery, in which there were no blanks and all prizes, was followed by "God Save the Queen," and so ended the amusements, the party breaking up at eleven.

THE POPE'S ALLOCUTION.

HIS HOLINESS pronounced, in secret Consistory, on the 17th of December last, a lengthy allocution. After speaking of the violation of the Concordat in the Grand Duchy of Baden, he proceeds:—

"Another source of grief, produced by a most infamous pamphlet lately published in Paris, has lately come to add to our sadness. In that publication there are so many things so completely opposed to truth, so many absurdities and contradictions combined by the author, that it is more fitting to throw aside and despise it than to refute it. What is, however, intolerable is the audacity and impiety of this writer, who, not having feared to attack the civil and ecclesiastical principality of the Roman Church, has endeavoured to contrive a particular species of Church, to be founded in the French empire, and organised, so that it should be removed from the authority of the Sovereign Pontiff, and completely separated from it. But what else is this than to overturn and rend the unity of the Church? Behold the words which Christ our Lord has addressed to His Father on the necessity of this unity:—'I pray not only for them, but also for those who shall believe in their words, that all may be as one, as thou, my Father, thou art in me and I in thee.' But the power and economy of this unity imperiously demand that all the faithful dispersed over the different parts of the globe should be united and joined to the Roman Pontiff, the Vicar of Christ on earth, as the members to the head. What injustice does the author of the beforementioned pamphlet do to the most illustrious French nation in believing that that nation, the most attached to Catholic unity, could let itself be drawn into schismatical errors? What boldness must not that writer have who dares hope to detach from obedience and faith to the Holy See the clergy of that nation, and, above all, the illustrious Bishops who count amongst the number of their predecessors St. Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons, who has written these words:—'It is necessary that the whole Church—that is to say, the faithful of all places—should turn towards the Roman Church as being the principal Church'—these Bishops who, by word and writing, have not ceased to combat for our rights and those of the Holy See, and have vindicated them without letting themselves be moved by any fear, without regard for any peril. Certainly they have not neglected any occasion of furnishing us with proofs of their attachment. We cannot but give well-merited praise to them and to the other Bishops of the universe for their pastoral zeal, their vigilance, and their firmness; and, although we know them to be spontaneously most zealous for the defence of the Catholic faith, we cannot restrain ourselves from exciting, in these days of iniquity, a zeal—which is so much the greater that the assaults of the enemy are becoming more impetuous—to oppose to them more firm resistance, and to exhort the faithful to take care of the tricks and snares employed by most audacious men to tear them from the bosom of the Church."

"In this condemnable pamphlet the author and those who partake of his opinion have dropped the mask and unveiled the plan they are pursuing to overturn the civil authority of the Holy See; yet they have no other end but to sap the foundations of our holy religion. We groan to see these wicked men going to spread this doctrine through the provinces unjustly taken from our government, as well as through the other countries of Italy. Behold the end of these translations of the sacred books everywhere scattered to corrupt the faith—this host of most shameful books, made to poison the morals of youth—of this license without rein—of this contempt for the Church, trampled under foot—of this violation of sacred immunities—of the removal from the authority of the Bishops of the education of youth, and of the inspection of doctrine and morals! To the same end tend these men, superintendents of instruction, who hold opinions hostile to the Church; this decree, published in Umbria, ordering the expulsion of religious congregations from their convents, the annihilation of collegiate chapters, the abolition of benefices of every kind, and the occupation, by a supreme injustice, of the property of pious associations. It is to attain the same end that they have cast into prison ecclesiastics and even Bishops, amongst whom we have lately seen our venerable brother the Archbishop of Urbino, who has been conducted to prison in the midst of soldiers. Another venerable pastor, clothed with the dignity of Cardinal (Firman), was taken from his see, and prevented from all contact with the flock confided to his charge. Many Bishops of the kingdom of Naples were either cast into prison or were obliged to take to flight. It is, also, the same tendencies which make them erect Protestant temples in many cities of Italy, and erect public schools in which they teach doctrines the most pernicious and hostile to the Catholic religion. Finally, the same end is assigned to the decree promulgated in Umbria by which the Sacrament of Marriage, declared great by the Apostle, is submitted to purely civil forms, which remove marriage from the ecclesiastical authority, and which are combined with the intention of making a civil institution, and which is most displeasing to God, of transforming it to a legal concubinage, to the great injury of souls."

"Conformably, then, to the duties of our apostolic mission, we reprove and condemn, we declare null and void, everything committed against the rights of the Church and its patrimony, against the persons of those consecrated to religion and against their property."

And where, indeed, is the man that will not deplore with us the disorder which has seized upon both public and private affairs, the terrible agitation which reigns throughout Europe, the revolt which rages like a fire from Heaven from end to end of Italy? Considering these numerous and deadly wounds inflicted on religion and on the city itself, we are forced to cry out with the Prophet, 'The earth is infested with its own inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws; because they have falsified the right and torn the eternal pact.' This multitude of evils can only be attributed to those who, styling themselves the promoters of public happiness, have, in order to extend their power in Italy, laid a sacrilegious hand on all laws, human and divine; and who have left in their track but ruin and desolation through their impious fury. May they, returning to sentiments of honour, at length understand that without religion there is no longer any protecting refuge for society, that religion is the sole desirable bond of nations, and that, if they proceed so far as to burst this bond, peace and security would be for ever banished from the world; may they be convinced that the Catholic religion is one, that it is alone that disseminates virtue, especially those virtues which make man attached to man, a good citizen in a tranquil and prosperous kingdom; in fine, may they remember that the Apostolic See has never shown itself hostile to the true and solid happiness of peoples, but that at all times, and under all circumstances, it has made the happiness of all the chief aim of its labours. History is open to all—let it be consulted."

AUSTRIA AND ENGLAND.—A brochure which has just appeared at Vienna, entitled "The Austrian Navy, by an Austrian Sailor," with the signature "Aut-aut," has caused much sensation. The Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, brother of the Emperor, and superior Commandant of the Austrian Navy, is said to be the author. He proposes a vote of 36,000,000 florins to create a navy equal to that of Italy. In urging this proposition he says that he regards the loss of Venetia as very possible; that he recognises the great political talents of Cavour; that he has familiarised himself with the idea of a united Italy; and that Austria ought to seek to form an alliance with England. "Austria," he says, "ought so to reform her internal system that England would not fear, in the presence of public opinion, to take the hand which we stretch out to her."

THE EMPRESS'S TOILET.—The Court Journal says:—"A good sign was whispered amongst the Ladies in Waiting at the Tuileries yesterday. The Empress, for the first time since her misfortune, had marked the dress to be placed on the edify in the tiring-room. Every morning a book of patterns is brought to her Majesty with a box of gilt-headed pins. Her Majesty looks over the book and chooses thence the dresses to be worn for the day—for morning, driving, and evening costume. The book is taken back to the head femme de chambre, who immediately attires three waif figures in the costumes."

DEATH OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

THE King of Prussia died at Sans Souci on Wednesday. He became suddenly worse on Christmas Day, and, after rallying a little, gradually sank, and expired. Frederick William IV. was born on the 15th of October, 1795, being the son of Frederick William III. Early in life the young Prince was removed from the care of his mother, and placed under some of the most eminent men of the kingdom. Instructed in military science by Scharnhorst and Knesbeck, and by J. F. C. Delbrück and Ancillon in philosophy and letters, the Crown Prince studied the principles of public and national law under the celebrated Savigny, while his taste for the fine arts was directed by Schinkel and Rauch.

The nationality of Prussia revived while the young heir was still a youth, and in early manhood he took part in the campaigns of 1813 and 1814, although not at that time intrusted with any command. At a suitable age he was admitted into the Council of State, where the affairs of the nation were discussed prior to the establishment of the Parliamentary system; and he was afterwards appointed Military Governor of Pomerania. Called to the throne by the decease of his father on the 7th of June, 1840, he distinguished his accession by repairing several of the injuries which had grown out of his father's repressive system of government.

"The new reign," says a writer in "Contemporary Biography," "was unmarked by any great event until the fatal year of 1848, when the revolutionary insanity of the period infected the people of Berlin, and led to collisions between the military and the citizens. The King took measures to calm the tempest of insurrection, placed himself at the head of the national party, and proposed to fuse all the German States into a great federal union, under a single Monarch. His famous saying, 'Prussia disappears and Germany is born,' added fervour to the existing excitement throughout Germany. But the King's enthusiasm not only led him too far for the time, but very soon cooled. An unfortunate though accidental quarrel between the people of Berlin and the soldiers induced exasperation on both sides, and renewed bloodshed was the result. Prisoners were taken, but the King released them, following up his clemency by a general amnesty for political offences, and by forming a new Administration from the ranks of men in the popular confidence. Restored tranquillity was the almost immediate consequence of his measures. Shortly afterwards, and still with German unity as his watchword, he undertook to protect Schleswig-Holstein in opposition to the claims of Denmark; but when the National Assembly at Frankfort passed over his pretensions, and elected the Archduke John Lieutenant-General of the German empire, Frederick William became convinced to all appearances that 'German unity,' such as is desired by the enthusiastic students of Germany, was a game too difficult for him to play; and that as a King he would better consult the interests of his kingdom by giving more of his attention to Prussia, and less to Germany, than he had been in the habit of doing. At the same time, as if fearful of the fate of Louis XVI. and other weak though well-meaning Monarchs whose sad end is recorded in history, he thought it safer to act the part of a conservative than that of a revolutionary Monarch, and entered upon a career of reaction, which exposed him to much ill-will if not danger, but which never again eventuated in popular insurrection. At the outbreak of the Crimean War, it was confidently expected that the King of Prussia would have cast in his lot with Great Britain and France in support of the equilibrium of Europe, but, with the vacillation which marked every period of his career, his intentions were always in advance of his acts; and the reason for doing the right thing was balanced in his mind by some reason equally cogent for not doing it, or, at all events, postponing it; and time wore on, and found him equally distrusted by Russia and by the Powers opposed to her. In the year 1857 symptoms of mental aberration were observed by the physicians of his Majesty, and, these symptoms continuing to grow stronger, it was at length deemed necessary to establish a regency; and on the 24th of October, 1858, the King's brother, Prince Frederick William Louis, the Heir Presumptive to the throne, was inducted into that office, and took the necessary oaths, amid the general satisfaction of the people."

Frederick William was good and almost great in everything but as a King. Neither nature nor circumstances allowed him to be that. Had he been the man to play a great part, it would probably have been to the sore cost of his country; and, had that country been in a condition to back up the genius and enterprise of another Frederick the Great, it would not have found a leader in the late King. He was a man of heart and of head, a genius, a wit, a savant, a sentimentalist, a theologian, an artist, a good companion, a kind friend,—everything but a King; and, as nothing was wanted but a name to hold Prussia together, he has fulfilled his mission. Happily he was without political ambition, unless it was an ambition to found a new episcopacy, to share with Queen Victoria the See of Jerusalem to inaugurate the Cathedral of Cologne as a temple of Christianity, or to reconstruct the German Empire, and do homage and service to the Emperor. Had he not been a King, he would have been a great man, and, no doubt, in that case would have added the name of a politician to his other eminent qualities. Unfortunately, this was the point on which he was called on to act as well as talk, and the result has been fatal to his reputation. However, there can be no doubt that under his government of Prussia a new artistic and scientific life has been developed at Berlin, Düsseldorf, Königsberg, and other cities of the kingdom. He was an enthusiastic lover of the fine arts and of the higher branches of philosophy, and accordingly extended his patronage to philosophers, painters, chemists, mathematicians, scholars, and geologists, with no sparing hand. A connoisseur in painting, sculpture, and architecture, and enthusiastically fond of poetry and the drama, arts, poetry, and science equally shared his patronage.

The King was married, on the 29th of November, 1823, to Elizabeth Louise, daughter of the late Maximilian Joseph, King of Bavaria. There has been no issue by the marriage, so that, after the actual Regent, the Heir Presumptive to the throne of Prussia is Prince Frederick William Nicholas Charles, married, on the 25th of January, 1858, to the Princess Royal of England.

The late King leaves behind him three brothers and also three sisters, all of whom are married—1st, Prince Frederick William Louis, who has succeeded to the throne, was born in 1797, and is married to a daughter of Charles Frederick, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, by whom he has a son, Prince Frederick William Nicholas Charles, the son-in-law of Queen Victoria, and a daughter, Princess Louise, born Dec. 3, 1838, and married, Sept. 20, 1856, to the reigning Grand Duke of Baden; 2nd, Prince Frederick Charles Alexander, born in 1801, and married to a sister of his brother's wife; 3rd, Prince Frederick Henry Albert, born in 1809, and married to a daughter of the late King of Holland, from whom, however, he was divorced in 1849. Of the sisters one was the Empress Dowager of Russia, lately deceased; another the Grand Duchess Dowager of Mecklenburg-Schwerin; and the third Princess Louisa Augusta Wilhelmina Amalia, married, in 1825, to William Frederick Charles, Prince of Holland.

THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.—The distribution of the Royal New Year's gifts took place on Tuesday amongst the poor and deserving of the parishes of Windsor, New Windsor, Clewer, and Holy Trinity. Her Majesty's riding-school was tastefully decorated with evergreens and laurels, and the various articles were arranged on the tables. The Queen, the Prince Consort, and the Prince of Wales, accompanied by all the younger members of the Royal family, took their places in the gallery over the eastern entrance of the riding-school, attended by the Lords and Ladies in Waiting, whence they had a view of the proceedings. The money value of the articles distributed is altogether £1000, made up as follows:—£100 from the Lord Chamberlain's department, to which is added £350 subscribed by the poor themselves in weekly instalments throughout the year, and £550 from the Lord Chamberlain's department, the latter being expended in beef, mutton, and bread; and the former in blankets, calico, dannel, &c.

Literature.

A Walk from London to Fulham. By the late THOMAS CROFTON CROKER, F.S.A., &c. William Tegg.

Omnibus drivers and conductors are said to have the most intimate knowledge of the habits, manners, and customs of all classes of people who frequent their routes. They are possibly not altogether sufficiently antiquarian in their tastes—which are probably confined to the age of ale—to interest themselves with the history or legends of the palaces, houses, and cottages they daily pass and re-pass. Perhaps it is well for them. It might happen that eternally going over the same ground, never changing the association of ideas, might induce disgust with all the great memories that buildings bring to mind. It would be extremely unpleasant to have to think about Charles I. fifty times a day because you are seated on the box of an "Atlas." The advantages of which, we suspect, omnibus-drivers do not avail themselves, are at last seized by less-occupied enthusiasts. Mr. Crofton Croker, for instance, a many years' inhabitant of Fulham, and a daily London visitor, could not help becoming a master of all antiquarian points connected with every inch of the road. The results, first published in *Fraser's Magazine*, are here elaborated, continued to the present day by his son, Mr. Dillon Croker, and carefully illustrated by Mr. Fairholt. The interest and value of such works are well instanced in the volume before us. Projected some few years since, much of its material has already changed. The sketches, drawn on the spot, show objects which no longer exist; and many of the "distinguished inhabitants" have long since, by the verdict of the world, lost all claim to that distinction which their kindly circle of friends thrust upon them. We must leave such of our readers as are interested in antiquarian matters to make the book itself their showman. We cannot point out what the guide-books call "objects of interest," nor even add our own knowledge to the carefully-collected mass in Mr. Croker's volume. If to its lot some errors fall, the difficulties of the task must plead excuse. Various sources of information are freely drawn upon, and the result is a valuable contribution to local history, and especially regarding society in the greater part of the present century. Perhaps, in addition to affairs of the past, there is just a vein of information concerning the present which savours more of the industry of the Post Office Directory than of the brilliant dealing with facts which should characterise a periodical-writer. Our fourpenny omnibus will in future be refined by the knowledge that "Mr. Shirley Brooks inhabits No. 22, Brompton-square," and similar associations to be eagerly grasped by every mind that would be well stored. Apropos, we might mention that "London to Fulham" is not deficient in connection with literature; but, really, to judge from the present writer, it might be supposed that literature never went west of Charing-cross. In fact, the Crokers, father and son, almost entirely confine their attentions to actors.

Keeping up Appearances. A Novel of English Life. By CYRUS REDDING. 3 vols. C. J. Sleet.

Though professedly referring to our own day, and slightly noticing some modern institutions like crinoline and the electric telegraph, this is a tale which we are irresistibly prompted to connect, by its style and sentiments, with the annals of a past generation. It is really, for the most part, like ancient history by the measurement we apply to fashions, phraseology, and the exteriors of human life, and seems composed by a man of the world who has spent many years in Sleepy Hollow. The diction is remarkably rhythmical and polished, but at first rather stiff, and wanting in that plainness and directness which suit prevailing tastes—nay, sometimes in precision and coherence, which is often a disguised blemish in florid writers, as the stately folds of the toga may have concealed rents that would be horror-striking in the scanty dress-coat. The dialogues, which constitute a great part of the book, have in them much character, sense, and humour, but are too elaborate to be like anything that is produced by the chance collisions of ephemeral mortals. In the supposed oral report, moreover, by which we are introduced to these conversations, the author disdainfully ignores all the limits of human memory and attention. This is an expedient, however, for which he might perhaps quote a high classical and philosophical precedent; so we forbear to dwell on it. Considered as a doctrinary work—a sort of dramatised essay on the tendencies of English civilisation—the book is able and piquant, and embraces much wholesome censure of the *acharés* struggles of commercial life, the insatiable love of accumulation, the narrow-minded routine, tasteless ostentation, neglect of social relations, and unhappiness in domestic life that may thence be generated. But these things are hardly surveyed from a fair point of view, or one on which many readers will be disposed to take a stand, when the *consors of manners* is presented as a young gentleman with such a precocious life of dignified ease and quiet on the "few paternal acres," as philandering and desultory reading may be judged even less calculated to develop all true manly spirit and faculty than the vulgar and drudging mammonism on which he comments with elegant disdainfulness. Could he really deem that from riding about between country mansions, talking to select young ladies of fine sunsets and melodious birds singing in the air, and spheres of higher enjoyment, or petting tame fawns, or rallying a hoyden on her vows of celibacy, such weight could accrue to a man's character and example as would make him an effective denouncer of the evils developed in strong and rugged natures, under the pressure of less indulgent circumstances?

The Mother's Thorough Resource-Book. Ward and Lock.

It seems as if human life were fast becoming a thing of handbooks. This manual is very comprehensive and very good, and falls short chiefly in the one point in which all attempts to lay down rules of conduct must fall short. We mean, of course, in "drawing the line," whatever the topic is. You are warned against a certain error, and told of its mischievous consequences; but immediately follows, "on the other hand," with a caution against the opposite error. This leaves the reader to discover the golden mean, or, in other words, what really to do—the very thing he bought the book for.

The book has minor faults, of course. The "Geometrical Puzzle," "Given a square, to divide it into seventeen smaller but equal squares," is a blot. The thing is impossible, and the solution is a false one. A seventeenth square is drawn upon the same plane as the other squares, taking in parts of four of the sixteen. But that is not "dividing" the square into "seventeen equal squares." It might with equal facility be "divided" (in that fashion) into any other odd number. We have also a quarrel on the score of untruthfulness of principle with the suggestion that "dirtiness should be visited with half-a-dozen needless ablutions." Still graver is our quarrel with the advice (not at all uncommon in its character—quite the approved thing, in fact) about punishing or controlling by force sulkiness in the young. What on earth is effected but the giving of a lesson in hypocrisy by sending a child into a corner, with ten minutes allowed in which to clear its little brow? What parent can analyse the compound of feelings which constitutes "sulkiness"? Who shall determine that "ten minutes," or twenty, is just the time in which a healthy rebound can take place in a bruised spirit? We can only say for ourselves that there are no parts of our own young days that we remember with such bitter resentment as the attempts made to control our feelings; to make us, for instance, put on an amiable face to A. B. who had displeased us, when we inwardly hated A. B. and wished to shun him. Accordingly, in dealing with our own little ones we sacredly shun all such tyranny. A child, be it remembered, has no such resources of "etiquette" as

its seniors. It cannot keep the little sincerities of its little heart intact and yet save *les bienséances*. It must be left to its own simple, often savage, ways of showing its estimate of men and things, and grown people must take their chance. Why not? What right have they but the right of the stronger to treat children as they would not endure to be treated themselves? The "sulkiness" for which children are most commonly ill-treated is "sulkiness" after punishment. But it is not a fair ground for anger even, unless very excessive. A child that would kiss the rod is likely to grow up feeble-minded. The only fair way to deal with mere expression of feeling that does not travel beyond simple visible indications in the individual is to oppose to it just and kind counter-indications of feeling.

We must by this way take upon ourselves to deny very flatly the soundness of the recommendation that "a pupil should not be precipitated into the labour of acquiring a second language till he is accurately versed in the construction of the first." What next? On the contrary, "the pupil," young or old, should study as many languages as possible at the same time. One more criticism, and we will stop—repeating that the book is a very useful one indeed. We are told (page 116) that too much animal food sometimes produces scrofula. In the name of Hippocrates, how and when?

NURSERY LITERATURE.

THE new juvenile publications issued by the Messrs. Dean and Son, Ludgate-hill, are intended strictly for the nursery. All are lavishly illustrated, and the drawings are coloured with a "bold, determined hand," which leave no doubt that the "Ridinghood" is "red." In tender years this is the best system. There is no use in wasting high art on works destined for the society of bread and butter, pegtops, candle sugar-burners, and other accessories that will adorn the nursery even in the best-regulated families. The great experience of the Messrs. Dean has led to the inevitable conclusion that—next to Armstrong guns and very violet eyes—little masters and missesses are about the most destructive things on the face of the earth. There is scarcely a house to be found in which a good, solid German "Nutteracker" would last more than ten minutes; and there are not wanting those who, despairing of breaking small brass cannons, have resorted to the dangerous expedient of tossing them out of top-floor windows. Therefore it is necessary to take every possible precaution against the devastating tendencies of sweet six or seven. Messrs. Dean take the trouble to paste some of their publications upon substantial canvas, which alone might astonish Bob or Dick; while the effects of the dirty fingers of Bill or Tom are practically frustrated by means of a good coating of varnish, which may be washed over and over again at pleasure. In this character, at the simple price of eighteenpence, are some capital books, boldly drawn and printed, and which look exactly like poetry. A little examination, however, convinces the student that this delusive effect is produced merely by cutting the lines into irregular lengths, and making the tips of the lines to rhyme. The effect is highly amusing. We have read one of these works, "Pussies' Party," in which a somewhat designing family cat invites a number of young toms to a dinner and ball in hopes that they will fall in love with her three daughters. The narrative breaks off at the courtship, which we think a great improvement on that eternal "marriage, and lived very comfortably after." The other works in this series are "Tom Tucker," in which that model urchin winds up by marrying "a lady both clever and witty," for which nobody will envy him; "The Three Blind Mice," which is set for three voices; and "Little Bo-peep," which differs in no material manner from the ancient chronicles respecting that kind-hearted but incautious young lady. The "Unwearable, Waterproof, and Washable Toybooks" will surely find many patrons.

"The Children's Plain and Tinted Picture Books" are a series of three large folio collections of drawings—a plain copy and a coloured copy being given of each. The subjects are the "Funny Story of the Three Little Pigs," &c.; "The Child's Book of Merry Sports," and "Red Ridinghood," "Tom Thumb," &c.

The most wonderful is "The Girl's Delight," showing how a doll's house may be made and furnished out of two sheets of cardboard without gum or glue. Neat little fingers will find little difficulty in cutting out the diagrams on the cardboards, erecting them into shapes, and fastening them as directed. A perfect room may thus be built, and to furnish it there is actually a built fireplace, chairs, sofas, and tables in profusion, and an upright piano-forte!

Mrs. Cousens has written a series of six largely-printed books or pamphlets which will be found very useful in simplifying the labour of teaching the New Testament to a child. The six divisions are—"Birth and Nativity of Our Saviour," "Christ a Little Child," "Miracles of Our Saviour," "More Miracles of Our Saviour," "Story of Christ Crucified," and "Acts of the Apostles."

"The Wonderful Ship that was Planned by Brunel" is an account, illustrated on every page, of the Great Eastern steam ship. Every separate part is drawn and coloured, and the whole explained in some remarkable verses written on the principle of "The House that Jack Built."

"Funny Fruit Figures, and How to Make Them," ingeniously insists that all kinds of flowers and other things may be imitated by fruits. The plan, we fear, is difficult, but, should it fail, the fruit at least may be eaten.

Dean's New Peep show Magic Picture Book shows wonderful and lifelike effects, giving the interior of the Crystal Palace, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Thames Tunnel. The pictures draw out until all the effects of a real stage are produced, the distance and space being remarkably real and picturesque.

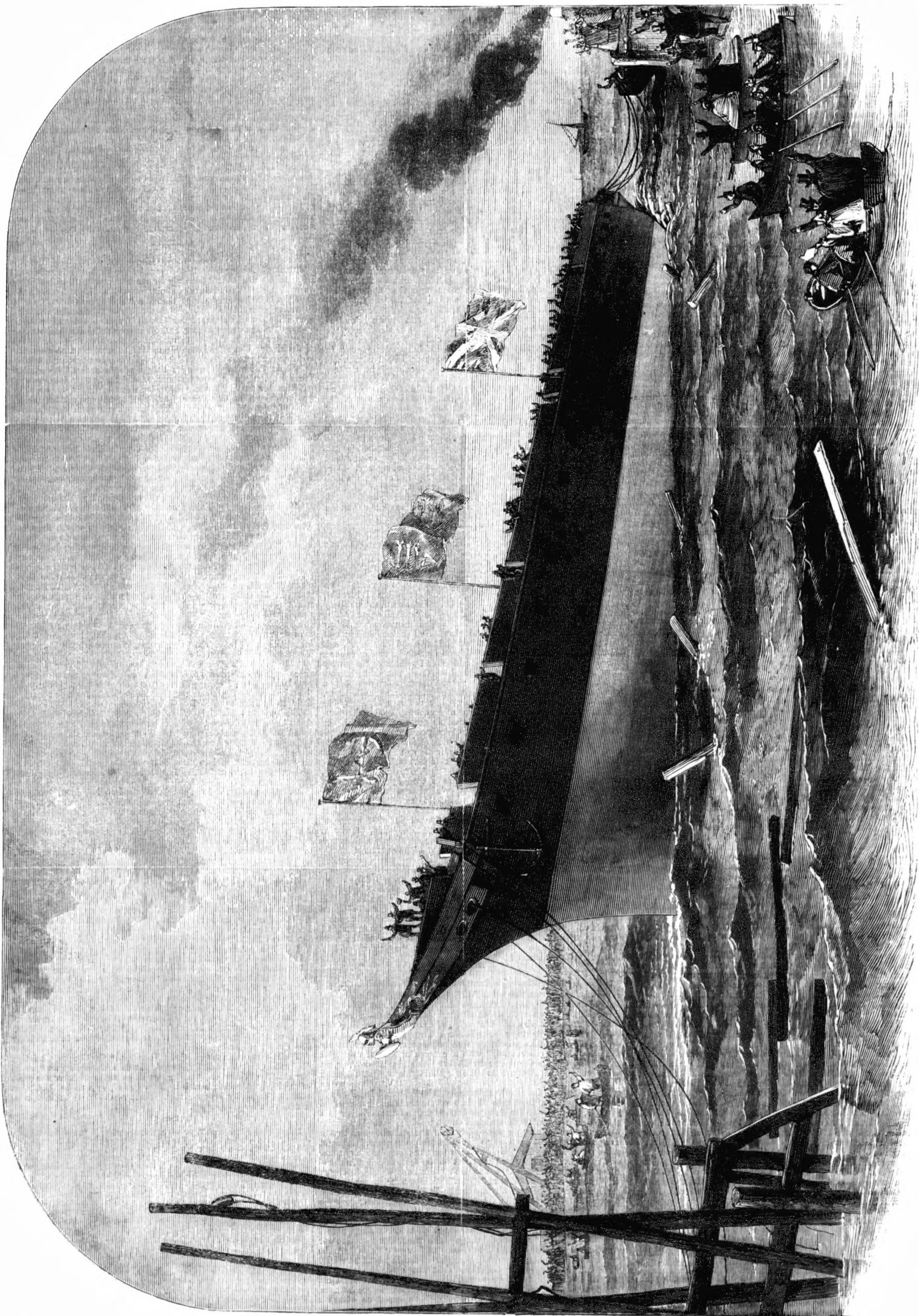
"Walter Wonderful's Wonderful Table Changes" are a series of pictures which are made to give a totally different aspect by merely folding over half of another picture. In one Master Tom is attempting to fish, and the change shows him with an enormous eel curled tight round his neck and grinning in his face. These are some of the most laughable effects that we know in this clever department of illustration.

The last on our list is entitled "The Orphan Captive; or, Christian Endurance," by Miss J. Strickland. It is a mother's narrative to her children of her early sufferings when captured, near the coast of Spain, by Algerine corsairs. It is gracefully written, but, as a story, is decidedly heartrending. Some of the funny books will be necessary after its perusal.

DESERTIONS FROM THE NAVY.—A correspondent informs us that the eastern division of the Channel Fleet shows the following list of desertions:—Trafalgar, 109; Edgar, 146; Algiers, 89; Diadem, 110—a severe reckoning, which shows that there are causes for desertion more tempting than the inducements to remain, or that the deserters were irrational blackguards, who to their offence superadded ignorance of their own interests.

ABD-EL-KADER AND NAPOLEON.—One of Abd-el-Kader's cousins has arrived in Paris with an autograph letter begging the Emperor to order the Turkish Government to except the troops of him (Abd-el-Kader) from the general order of disarmament applicable to all Arabs. In case of this order being insisted upon as regards himself, Abd-el-Kader threatens to leave Syria and come to France.

GREAT REDUCTION IN MASSES!—The *Opinion Nationale* publishes a singular document—an advertisement issued by the Abbé Heslot, Curé of Andouille, diocese of Laval, that "for the alms of five sous" as many as "sixty masses, or twelve masses per annum for five years," shall be said on certain saints' days for any "intentions" the donors may desire, and for their defunct children, relatives, and friends; also for "the preservation of their worldly goods," and for "the peace and triumph of the Church." The said alms are to be employed in the completion and fitting up of the parish church of the Lady of the Immaculate Conception of Andouille, department of Mayenne. The advertisement, headed by a cross, is signed by the Abbé Heslot, and is sanctioned by permission of the Bishop of Laval.



THE LAUNCH OF THE IRON-CASED STEAM FRIGATE WARRIOR.



THE BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

THE Christmas Pantomime is one of those truly British institutions which, being of a sturdy evergreen nature, will hold its own in spite of innovations. So far from there being any probability of its dying out, it seems calculated to last while there is a stage to play on, or a clown left who is capable of apprising the audience of his and their mutual presence in the unaltered and orthodox fashion.

There is no lack of variety this season, and the difficulty is which theatre to choose, since each of them as we read their advertisements are so obviously better in some respects than all the rest that the difficulty can only be remedied by adopting the advice of one of the junior branches who suggests that we should go to one every night till we find out which is the best. To this we, perhaps not unwillingly, acceding, are only able to record some of our impressions by such pictorial aid as may be found within the resources of a woodcut, and present our readers with scenes from some of the performances themselves, accompanied by a word or two of explanation.

Even the Royal Italian Opera and Her Majesty's Theatre have joined the popular entertainment to their usual performances, and at both these houses the regular glorious pantomime has sprung into a life which their resources are capable of making as brilliant as the sticklers for the "genuine thing" can desire.

At COVENT GARDEN Mr. Bridgeman has again contributed a piece which combines in the opening burlesque and allegory to a degree which would be absolutely maddening were it not that before we can come at the entire meaning of the political allusions we are doubled up by a pun of such magnitude as to leave us incapable of reflection. Bluebeard and King Despotino stand no chance against Hope in search of Freedom, which is found in Britannia's marine retreat, a beautiful scene representing a kind of fairy dockyard, where a whole dockyard full of charming sailors and volunteers support the ballet. Our Illustration represents the scene where Bluebeard, closely attended by that Demon Remorse, who cannot by any means be got rid of, woos the lovely Fatima and Sister Ann.

At HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE the entertainment, as stated in the bills, is expressly adapted for the amusement of children, and, indeed, the beautiful scenery and dresses of the piece, as well as the story on which it is founded, are likely to afford delight to all the juveniles who witness them. This is the first introduction of the pantomime at Her Majesty's Theatre, and "Harlequin Tom Thumb; or, Merlin the Magician," is a worthy commencement. It may readily be imagined that Beverley can effect in the way of scenery, and what resources are contained in the old story of the little son of Gaffer and Goody Thumb, when it is moulded into dramatic shape by Mr. E. L. Blanchard. We represent the scene where, King Arthur having called for his bowl of furmety, Tom Thumb, in his usual mischievous manner, contrives to fall into it. The royal guards are disinclined to burn their fingers in the attempt to extricate him, leaving to the King the heroic task of rescuing the unfortunate mannikin.

At the LYCEUM there is neither burlesque nor pantomime, but in their place an entertainment which contains a story told with poetic feeling, and so exquisitely illustrated as to seem like a sublimation of those beautiful Easter pieces which were once represented at this theatre. "Chrystabelle; or the Rose without a Thorn," is an extravaganza to describe the plot and scenery of which would wholly exceed our limits; but we may, at least, say that anything more beautiful than the effect of some of the scenes, and the spirited action with which they are accompanied, would be to invert the usual paragraph—even more difficult to imagine than to describe. The one we have chosen from among many is the "Reception Hall in the Palace of Dewdropland."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1861.

THE REVENUE.

It is questionable whether any man ever made up his year's accounts with perfect satisfaction to himself. The balance may show favourably enough; there may even be a handsome surplus; but the seriousness with which he sat down to the task of scrutinising the various items of receipt and expenditure clings to him to the last. He doubts, as he closes the book, whether, after all, he might not have been richer had he been wiser; whether he sees the end of this runlet of expense, where that speculation may lead him and whether the sources of income here and there are not subject to disturbance or diversion. This being the case, and the Englishman being naturally a melancholic and grumbling creature, it is not to be supposed that a perusal of the national balance sheet should exhilarate the country at large, however well calculated it may be to delight a merely financial mind.

Our accounts do generally come out well. Every year the balance sheet shows that we are advancing in wealth, that our trade increases, that our hard-working people produce and consume more of the necessities, the comforts, and the luxuries of life, daily. Of course this is very satisfactory, but the means by which we arrive at our information is not so pleasant. No doubt, it is a subject of much gratulation that trade and property in this country are so flourishing that seventy millions of money may be sweated out of them in a year, by way of taxation, with little sign of inconvenience to their possessors. But seventy millions! what a sum is that to be drained from our resources in a single year of peace! And then the demand on the national purse increases so rapidly. Only a few years ago fifty millions was thought a good revenue and a large expenditure. In 1859 we had to raise sixty-six millions, and then there was a deficit. In the year that expired on Monday nearly six millions were added to this already enormous revenue! What is it to be in 1870? What in 1890? At the present rate of progress the State expenditure of Great Britain will exceed a hundred millions a year before another generation of taxpayers has passed away.

This is a rather dismal outlook, especially as, while there seems to be a determination to curtail indirect taxation by customs and excise (because that method is expensive in working and obstructive to trade), the direct tax on income and property has already reached a point of severity beyond which it cannot be carried without exciting discontent. In 1860 the income tax yielded seven millions more than in 1859; that is to say, the increased revenue of last year is wholly due to this source. But another seven millions must not be expected in 1861. At present, at any rate, no Chancellor of the Exchequer will venture to ask for another twopence-halfpenny in the pound for anything short of the expenses of actual warfare—certainly not to cover a deficit occasioned in the customs dues by any "temporary derangement" consequent on a commercial treaty. Such a derangement has already cost the country nearly two millions of money, and is likely to cost still more; and, though the loss may by-and-by be made up by increase of trade, little disposal I have found in the country to pay for such experiments, as well as for those which constantly go on in the dockyards and arsenals, by an addition to the income tax. It is just this difficulty which presses on Mr. Gladstone at the present moment. More money he must have to carry on the Queen's Government and to secure the country against the machinations of allies; but he will not have it through the Custom House, and he is not likely to get it by an additional levy on income and property.

The decline in the customs dues and the augmentation of income-tax returns are the most remarkable items in the national balance-sheet for 1860. On the last quarter there is a decrease of about a million in the excise, but that is accounted for by the postponement of the hop duty and the reduction of the malt credit; while, taking the whole year, this source of revenue pours into the Treasury £28,000 more than in 1859. The Post Office returns have increased by about £200,000, and the revenue from stamps by £300,000. Spain was dunned for a few hundred thousand pounds, and the payment thereof swells the "miscellaneous" returns. This year we may expect a great portion of the Chinese indemnity, which, after all, will not go far towards defraying the charges of the war. Let us hope that we shall have no other on our books this year!

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY left Windsor Castle for Osborne House on Wednesday.

THE QUEEN on Saturday forwarded a donation of £100 to the fund of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association in St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square.

CAMBRIDGE was honoured with a visit by the Prince Consort on Monday, the object being the inspection of Madingley Hall and the preparations making thereat for the reception of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

PRINCE ALFRED will embark on board H.M.S. St. George, 90, at Plymouth, about the 15th instant. The St. George will, it is said, then proceed to the North American and West India station.

THE PRINCE OF HESSE DARMSTADT, Princess Alice's betrothed, left Windsor yesterday week for Germany.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL recently gave a fête at the Tuileries to all the young children about his own age of the high functionaries of State.

A MARRIAGE IS ARRANGED to take place early in the spring between Miss Victoria Russell, eldest daughter of Lord John Russell by his first marriage with Lady Ribblesdale, and Mr. Henry Montagu Villiers, eldest son of the Bishop of Durham, and nephew of the Earl of Clarendon, K.G. The fair betrothed is a goddaughter of the Queen.

THE COUNTESS OF EGLINTON died on Monday morning—almost suddenly. She appeared to be in excellent health on the previous day. Her Ladyship was the only daughter of the Earl of Essex. She was born in 1825, and married in 1858.

THE EXODUS OF THE TARTARS from the Crimea continues its course. Over 60,000 of these nomadic tribes were conveyed last autumn in Turkish Government steamers to various parts of Turkeydom—Salonica, Latakia, the Troad, and Smyrna.

A NEW COINAGE is just coming out in France, bearing the Emperor's effigy in coronation robes. From this circumstance it is inferred that the Emperor's coronation, which had been relegated to the Greek calendar, is likely to be brought on the tapis immediately.

THE LATE SEVERE WEATHER has not failed to produce its usual effect in an augmented rate of mortality. The deaths in London, which were 1268 and 1269 respectively in the two previous weeks, rose in the last week of the year to 1407.

THE ANNUAL SHIPPING CIRCULARS give a most favourable and encouraging view of the state and prospects of that important interest, which had made itself out of late years little better than ruined.

M. PROUDHON has received a special pardon from the Emperor, and it is said that he has already arrived in Paris from Brussels.

THE FROST which set in on the evening of the 17th ult. has been severe beyond all other years on record. On the 24th the temperature was 23.7 deg. below the mean, and on the 25th the extraordinary amount of 32.5 deg. below that of the average of forty-three years—an unprecedented temperature for this country.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF OLDHAM, Mr. W. J. FOX, contemplates retiring from Parliamentary life before the opening of next Session.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has given the parish of St. George's-in-the-East another Curate in the place of Mr. Hansard, who resigned; because the Bishop ordered the removal of all the decorations which were objected to by the parishioners.

MAHARAJAH DRULKEE SINGH has left England on a visit to his mother in Lahore. His Highness is expected to return to London before the close of the ensuing season.

THE REMOVAL of the approaching abolition of the Irish Viceroyalty as a political office is again being revived, and the story now is that the appointment will be permanently conferred upon the Prince of Wales.

A WARDMOT was held in the City on Tuesday for the election of an Alderman to represent the ward of Candlewick, in the room of the late Sir George Carroll. Mr. Thomas Dikin, who had served the ward as deputy for the last six years, was elected.

THE TENOX TAMBUINI has a son, Carlo, who fought in the ranks during the campaign of Solferino, and subsequently in Garibaldi's heroic band from Marsala to Mezzogiorno. He has just received the rank of Captain in the King of Italy's army.

GENERAL DUNN, who was stabbed at Naples, has died of his wound.

THE RELIGIOUS LIBERATION SOCIETY announces its intention to commence an agitation which will once and for all settle the question of church rates.

MR. SPURGEON held a meeting at his new Tabernacle, on Tuesday, for the reception of New Year's offerings towards the building fund. Nearly a thousand pounds were handed in.

THE NEW YEAR was somewhat inauspiciously inaugurated by a rise in the rate of discount at the Bank of England to an unusually high point. The minimum was raised from 5 per cent. (at which it was fixed on the 29th of November) to 6. The action of the Bank of England no doubt was intended as a measure of defence against the necessities of the Bank of France.

THE BRITISH BIRDS introduced into Australia are doing very well. THE BEY OF TUNIS has promulgated a very liberal Constitution.

LADY CHARLOTTE CHEWYNS made a wager, a few days ago, to ride from Grendon Hall, Atherston, to Cliff House, six miles distant, in twenty-five minutes. Her Ladyship, notwithstanding the bad state of the road, performed her undertaking with fifty-eight seconds to spare.

THE REPORT alleging that the Marquis of Downshire had thrown the commander of the yacht Sylphide (Captain Gandy, R.N.) overboard for paying attentions to his daughter turns out to be a pure invention.

ABD-EL-KADER, it is said, has received a letter from Schamyl congratulating him on his noble conduct in the massacres of Syria. It is signed "Schamyl, who is in the power of the infidel."

THE STATEMENT that the late Duke of Norfolk left a large sum to the Pope is contradicted.

EXTENSIVE PURCHASES OF HORSES have been made in Eastern Prussia and Lithuania for the French and Piedmontese Governments.

A LIBERAL BUT ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR having sent the Bishop of Salisbury a donation sufficiently large for the purpose, his Lordship has purchased a suitable house in the Close, Salisbury, to convert it into a theological college for training candidates for holy orders.

THE ASSOCIATED BODY OF CHURCH SCHOOLMASTERS in England and Wales held their annual conference in York on Thursday and Friday of last week. Mr. Briscoe, of Bolton, was elected president for the ensuing year; Mr. Hales, of London, treasurer; and Mr. Graves, secretary.

THE SALE OF THE LATE EL HAMI PACHA'S STUD was commenced at Cairo on the 10th ult. The horses have been selling at amazing prices. Among others a stallion fifteen years of age, and described as having nothing in his favour but a tolerable pedigree, fetched £730.

THE LATE BISHOP OF PERIGUEUX, when on the point of death, requested the Pope to accord him the Pontifical benediction. This his Holiness complied with by transmitting it by telegraph, but the rev. Prelate expired before its arrival.

THE BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE have adopted a vote of thanks to Mr. Cobden for his services in connection with the French Treaty.

SEVERAL LADIES regularly attend the lectures of professors of the University of St. Petersburg, and take notes like students.

A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE GULF OF SUZ is about to be executed by Captain Mansell, of her Majesty's surveying-ship *Fuilly*, now lying at Alexandria.

M. GUIZOT's translation of the complete works of Shakespeare is in course of publication by Didier, of Paris. The first volume has appeared, and contains, along with M. Guizot's "Study" of Shakespeare, "Hamlet," "Coriolanus," and "The Tempest."

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have decided that the bounty given to seamen on their entry into the service shall be discontinued. The experiment has been a very costly one, and, we fear, not a very satisfactory one.

A SNOW-BALLING ROW took place at the TUILIERIES day or two ago. For two hours a group of sturdy men took possession of the whole of one side of the grounds in question, and pelted all the passers-by with snow-balls.

THE POPE'S ARMED YACHT, it is said, is kept at Civita Vecchia, with her steam up night and day, ready at any time to carry away her master to people who have seen little of him and love him much.

FROM ALEXANDRIA we hear of the inauguration in the harbour of a floating seamen's chapel. The vessel is the gift of the Viceroy. From 10,000 to 12,000 British sailors annually visit Alexandria.

THE DEATH OF Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Matthew Tierney is announced.

AN ACTIVE SYSTEM OF RECRUITING FOR HUNGARY is now going on in Naples under the direction of Hungarian officers.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WHAT a seething, prolific imagination is that of the Irish nation! Here is its last product. Mr. Maguire, sole editor and proprietor of the *Cork Examiner*, and member for Dungarvan, announces the probability that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is to be abolished, and that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is to be appointed perpetual Viceroy of the sister kingdom. Mr. Maguire, however candidly tells us that he has no authority for this announcement except "the opinion of persons who are well informed on what we may term political probabilities." Now, who these well-informed people are, I have no means of knowing; but I will venture confidently to affirm that in this particular instance their "opinions on political probabilities" are of no value. Every year, for some years past, when the Irish Estimates have been before the House, objections have been made to the expense of the Irish viceroyalty, and suggestions thrown out that the time had come when this semi-regal institution might with safety be abolished; and, more than once or twice, definite motions for its abolition have been submitted to the House; but all attempts of this kind have always been opposed by the Government of the day, and stoutly resisted by the Irish members of all parties; and I do not believe for a moment that any important change whatever in the Government of Ireland is contemplated by the present Ministry. Lord Palmerston, with his small majority, will have quite enough to do to steer clear of inevitable difficulties, and certainly will not thrust his head into such a nest of hornets as that. But, however this may be, rely upon it that such a notion as Mr. Maguire's never entered the head of the noble Lord, nor ever found place anywhere except in the teeming fancy of Irishmen. If ever the viceroyalty should be meddled with it will be to make a clean sweep of it altogether. Such a change does lie probably in the not very remote future; but the idea of making the heir to the throne permanent Viceroy is about as feasible as an attempt to make Palmerston permanent First Lord of the Treasury would be. For just look at the matter a little more clearly. The Prince, if he were made permanent Viceroy, must either be invested with power or not. Now, how could he be constitutionally invested with power? Would the Irish themselves be contented to have a Viceroy exercising authority whom they could not openly criticise and bully? Whilst, on the other hand, is it to be believed that the House of Commons would suffer an addition to the ornamental part of our Constitution? Besides, would it be wise to subject the heir to the throne to the unpopularity which is the inevitable lot of all Irish Viceroyalties? However, the idea is absurd, and no more need be said about it. Meanwhile, if the viceroyship is not to be abolished, there are certain ancient useless offices which surely might be got rid of. For example, there are two "gentlemen at large" which cost the country £267 17s. 4d. a year; a master of the horse, £200; a gentleman in waiting, £184 12s. 8d.; a sergeant of the riding-house, £30; a "Cork herald," whatever that may be, £12 17s. 4d., with an allowance for clothing of £18 9s. 2d.; an Athlone pursuivant, £11 14s. 6d., with ditto £9 4s. 7d., &c. All these are remnants of a bygone age; and, as it has been over and over again confessed that there are no duties of any importance attached to these offices, they ought, as the holders die off, to be abolished.

Last year Parliament met on the 24th of January; this year it is to meet on the 5th of February. It assembled earlier than usual last year on the plea of pressure of public business; but that public business could not have been exceedingly pressing may be seen by recurring to the votes of the first month of the Session. On the first day of the Session the House adjourned at 7 o'clock; on the second, at 9; the third, at 10; the fourth, at 11; on the fifth (Wednesday) it sat from 12 to 5.30; on the sixth it rose at 10; on the seventh, at 9; on the eighth, at 5.15; on the ninth, at 7.15; and it was not until February 13 that the House sat until past midnight. And whilst it did sit very little business of importance was done. Indeed, it soon became manifest that either there was no pressure of public business, or else that the heads of the departments had been culpably negligent in not having the "pressing business" ready to be presented to Parliament. In fact, the fortnight which was tacked on to the beginning of the Session was wholly lost. The Budget was not introduced until the 10th of February, three days over the fortnight; and the Reform Bill, which was thought to be one of the pressing measures, was brought in on the 1st of March.

You will remember that Mr. Charles Gilpin prophesied at Northampton that the Government would propose a Reform Bill next Session. The honourable Secretary of the Poor Law Board was, however, careful at the time, and, again, in a letter which he wrote to the *Morning Star*, to let it be known that he prophesied on his own responsibility, and had received no afflatus from the higher powers. I have made diligent inquiries on the subject, but I cannot hear of any Reform Bill, either in embryo or in a complete state, and

Mr. Gilpin's prophecy notwithstanding, I venture to think that there will be none. The opinion at the clubs—Liberal, Conservative, and neither—is unanimous upon the subject. Mr. Cardwell, a member of the Cabinet, addressed his constituents the other day at Oxford, but he gave no sign. Still there may be one in preparation for all that. Cabinet secrets are now well kept. Up to the last moment Gladstone's method of raising money for the Chinese War was so utterly unknown out of the Cabinet that even Lord Montagu, the Comptroller of the Exchequer, was ignorant of the scheme until it was revealed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the House. Indeed, the whole of the programme of the future Session is at present a profound secret; and it is probable that we shall be utterly in the dark until it shall please her Most Gracious Majesty to enlighten us. Formerly we used to have the Parliamentary programme sketched in the *Times* a day before the opening of Parliament; but lately this channel of information has been cut off. It is, however, generally understood that the Supplies will be got on much earlier this year than they were last.

The Dissenters are preparing vigorously for the church-rate battle. They have taken up the gauntlet which Mr. Disraeli has thrown down so chivalrously; and Dr. Foster, the Dissenters' man of business, has issued, or is about to issue, his summons to all dissenting congregations to prepare petitions. Meanwhile, the Church party is not inactive. Mr. Nott, a retired Birmingham stationer, formerly of the firm of Bailey and Nott, is the agent for the Church, and an invitation has been forwarded by him to every parish in the kingdom to express its views. There is, however, great difference of opinion as to the policy of Mr. Disraeli's move. Some ardent Churchmen think that it is not only bold but politic—while not a few mutter "Too late! too late!" Some years ago, they say, this policy might have answered; but now, in trying for all they shall lose all. Of this party are Mr. Hubbard, the Bank director and member for Buckingham, and Mr. Puller, the member for Hertfordshire, who, though a Whig, is an earnest defender of the principle of church rates. On the question of total abolition, pure and simple, without compromise or compensation, all the Conservatives are united; and it would not surprise me to see the anti-church rate majority in the Commons, which sank so suddenly last Session, turned into a minority next. Disraeli will, of course, lead the Conservative hosts in the battle, and, as Bright is especially strong and always speaks trenchantly upon this subject, we may expect some good fighting.

Parliament was formally prorogued on Thursday in the usual manner. The ceremony is a very senseless one. It has already been proclaimed by her Majesty, in the *Gazette*, that the Houses are to meet on Tuesday, the 5th of February, and not before, and it seems ridiculous that after this announcement this rapid, unmeaning ceremony should be gone through. The only possible reason why it should be is, I apprehend, because certain august performers in the farce receive heavy fees. The commissioners who represent her Majesty, I am told take each a respectable sum every time they come down to the House in this character. What is the exact amount which the ceremony costs the country I have not the means at hand to ascertain. The payment is not in the votes; perhaps it is charged upon the Consolidated Fund; or it may be paid out of the fee fund of the House of Lords, of the expenditure of which their Lordships render no account.

A series of lectures is about to be inaugurated by the Post-Office Library and Literary Association. Some renowned names are to be found in the list of lecturers—e.g., Messrs. Anthony Trollope, T. Adolphus Trollope, T. Hughes, G. H. Lewes, &c. The first is announced for the 4th instant, "On the Civil Service as a Profession," by Mr. Anthony Trollope; the second, for the 18th, "On Good Authors at a Discount," by Mr. Edmund Yates. Both these gentlemen are in the Post Office service.

A report is current that there is a split in the councils of the *Saturday Review*, and that another periodical of the same nature is about to be started under the guidance of Mr. Cooke, the present editor of the *Saturday*.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, it is said, are about to start a new shining monthly magazine, to be edited by Miss Muloch, of "John Halifax" celebrity.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

Stern, stout old *Blackwood* commences the year, in good old British fashion, with a grumble. The first article, "A Political Year," is nobly querulous, doubtful of Napoleon, doubtful of Austria, seeing in the East "all the elements of a prodigious revolution which may at any time be precipitated," and thoroughly contemptuous of home affairs as administered by Mr. Gladstone, who has brought forward three budgets (the last words set out in the celebrated *Blackwoodian* small capitals), and has committed "a wonderful series of blunders." Lord John Russell gets it equally hot, and the article winds up with a declaration that our Foreign Secretary makes us ridiculous abroad, that our Finance Minister makes us uncomfortable at home. "We cannot help wondering how long this very tragic farce is to last. Surely it cannot last long. Surely the end is near at hand." Growing again, in article No. 2, "The Purist Prayer-book," taking most severely to task the prayer-book remodelled and adapted to the men and circumstances of the present times, and showing not unjustly, and with much caustic humour, the blots and shortcomings of the proposed new edition. Then follows a capital article on "Uncivilised Man," various travel-books giving the text, the best and most interesting of which is undoubtedly Mr. Kohl's "Kitchi-Gami; or, Wanderings Round Lake Superior," many incidents in which are narrated with the most graphic power and the most winning simplicity. A perusal of the article leaves one a very strong doubt as to whether our boasted civilisation is really so much a desideratum as we have been brought up to believe. "English Enterprise in China" is a capital paper, commencing naturally with Captain Weddell's attempt on behalf of the East India Company in 1834, and concluding with the recent expedition, in which certain English lives were basely sacrificed, and left unavenged. "Horror: a True Tale," is a newly-turned narrative of the oft-repeated story of a lady retiring to rest and finding a half-clad man sleeping in her chamber. Years ago I read it in a magazine, long since defunct, called the *Olio*, and its last appearance was in an early number of *Household Words*, where it was called, I think, "A Night of Horror." A review of the Christmas Books of the year, a paper on the Indian Civil Service, and the continuation of "Norman Sinclair," complete the contents of *Blackwood*.

A good number of *Fraser*, opening with the opening chapters of Captain Whyte Melville's new story "Good for Nothing." A clever man is Captain Melville in this much—that he really knows and has lived in the society he depicts; makes no mistakes which, apparently trivial in themselves, yet open the eyes of the initiated to serious shortcomings; but photographs the middle and higher classes of society with good faith. His new story opens very well, and seems readable and interesting. A good, healthy paper, too, is "A January Day," very hearty and seasonable, and written in a jolly spirit, without affectation and redolent of out-door enjoyment and appreciation of exercise. What about our friends the Scotch, though? Surely, in poor Mr. J. W. Parker's day such a tirade against the North Britons would never have been allowed to see daylight in a magazine so many contributors to which are Scotchmen. The second paper on "The Life and Writings of Thomas d'Urberville" is better than the first—much better; and the best part of it is where the writer leaves for a time his subject and indulges in his own reveries; *except* *poems* in his account of the disquisitions round the after-noon in a country house, than which nothing can be more true

or in better taste. "A Town Reverie" is a mediocre poem, which would have been better had it been a little less pretentious. "On the Propriety of Abolishing the Writing of Books" is a clever essay, written with all the usual sense of Shirley, and with far more than his usual smartness. The notion of passing an Act of Parliament for preventing any one from the writing of books is in itself humorous, and is humorously carried out. A paper "On the Life of Schleiermacher," a review of the "Horse and his Rider," a story, "The Modern Medusa," and the usual "Chronicle of Current History," are also to be found in the number.

Mr. Thackeray's new story—"The Adventures of Philip"—is the great attraction of the new number of the *Cornhill*. Very pleasantly indeed it opens, in the old style, to the old tune, with the old personages about us, as I hinted a fortnight ago. All the old business is made use of, and that celebrated skeleton in the cupboard, who has done duty so often, once more appears, and serves his old office of peg to hang the threadbare old moralisings on. But the first instalment of the story is interesting and admirably written. The character of Dr. Firmin is excellently sketched, and there is a pleasant vein of familiarity about it all which connoisseurs of the old flavour will wag their heads at and wink knowingly. What a pity that the hideous caricature of an illustration should accompany it. Mr. Trollope also seems put on his mettle; the instalment of "Franklin Parsonage" is very good, especially Mr. Sowerby's meditations and conduct when alone, which are admirably portrayed. Essays on "Chinese Officials" and "Light-Vessels," on the "Career of an Indian Officer" (Sir James Outram), and "Reform in the Navy," are all well written and interesting. So much cannot be said for "Falling in Love," and "Wrongs of my Boyhood," two of the very poorest attempts at feeble sweetness conceivable. Very good, however, is "The Portrait of a Russian Gentleman," and capital an essay "in the Parochial Mind," by Mr. Hollingshead, written with all the calm practicality and minute business-like scalpel-wielding which has distinguished that gentleman's attempts at "rubbing the gilt off" many shams.

The second number of *Temple Bar* is a very great improvement on the first; there is more variety in the selection of the articles and a lighter tone throughout. Graver readers are, however, not unpleased for there is a scientific article on "Light," clearly and intelligently written, and edifying much novel thought; and an admirable description of a coal-mine and colliery explosions, called "What our Coals Cost Us," and understood to be written by Professor Anstet. Articles of a *Household Words* descriptive character are "The Houseless Poor" and "A Visit to the Iron-clad Ship." Mr. Sala contributes three papers to the number—a complete and concise summary of the events of the year, written with great force, and in its concluding portion with much beauty of expression, called "Annus Mirabilis," a continuation of the pleasant "Travels in Middlesex," and the first instalment of his new novel, "The Seven Sons of Mammon," which promises admirably. Nothing can be better than the description of the millionaire and his surroundings, while so far, at least, the story possesses the grand merit of being kept close to its point, and being free from that diffuse wandering in which its author occasionally indulges. Lovers of old literature will delight in a charming essay on "Robert Herrick," written in the true spirit of appreciation. There are three poems in the number—one by Mr. Stigant; a second of the "London Poems," full of fine thought and eloquent expression; and a musical song, by Mr. Mortimer Collins.

The *English Woman's Journal* begins the new year well. The article on "The Position of Women" is pretty much to the old tune; but there is a clever paper on Insanity, a well-written memoir of Mme. Recamier, and some very sweet verses bearing the signature of Miss Procter.

The *Dublin University* also shows a manifest improvement. There is a very good seasonable article on Thermal and Vapour Baths, and an excellent essay on the social aspect of Manchester, containing a large amount of interesting and novel information.

THE REVENUE.

The gross produce of taxation for the year and quarter ending January 1 has been published.

The net increase on the year is £5,897,026, and that on the quarter £1,157,518. Taking first the quarter, we find under Customs—still the greatest of all our sources of revenue—a decrease of £304,000, explained by the changes in our import duties consequent upon the Commercial Treaty with France; for, while other articles of import have yielded about as much as formerly, the falling off in the yield of duties on silk, brandy, and wine is about equal to the whole decrease under this head. The Excise accounts show a decrease of £1,000,000, explained by the displacement of the malt credit, about £300,000, and the postponement of the hop duty. The decline in the consumption of home-made spirits has doubtless told upon the returns under this head; and the apparent decrease would have been greater but for the transfer of the game certificate account, about £130,000, from taxes, which in their turn accordingly show a decrease to that amount. The effect of the new duties imposed last year is seen in the increase of £18,000 under the head of Stamps, and the prosperity of the Post Office in an increase of £30,000. The Income and Property Tax, which is heavier by twopence-halfpenny in the pound than it was this time last year, gives an increase of £2,592,000, and more than covering all deficiencies, makes the quarter's revenue, as mentioned above, greater by £1,157,518 than in the corresponding period last year.

The accounts of the year, extending to a date long before the operation of the new financial measures, combine the result of two fiscal systems. The general resemblance between the results of the year and quarter, however, is little affected by this circumstance. Excise, instead of showing a decrease, shows an increase of £28,000; but the transfer of the game certificate account is one of the causes of that augmentation. Stamps show an increase of £308,277, and Taxes a decrease of £105,000 from the causes already mentioned. The increase from the Post Office is £195,000, and that under the heads of Miscellaneous and Crown Lands £138,000. The Income and Property Tax yields £6,824,710 more than in 1859, and the net increase of the year is £5,897,026.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S ITALIAN POLICY.—An address signed by the Lord Provost, the two members, and 5000 of the inhabitants of Glasgow, approving of the Italian policy of the Government, has been forwarded to the Foreign Secretary. Lord John, in reply, expresses his gratification at the support which is thus given to Liberal principles by "the flourishing and enlightened city of Glasgow," and gratefully recognises the value, in a moral sense, of such an expression of public opinion.

A MECHANICAL BABY.—Among the advertisements drawn up for the temptation of the Parisian public at this present-giving season is one of a calculating-machine, "able to perform all the operations of arithmetic," for 150*fr*. Another offers "an baby mécanique," and we are told that if we were to see it walk and fight, and hear it cry on being put to bed, we should call it "un petit diabolin."

THE ENGLISH IN FRANCE.—The friendly act of the Emperor of the French exempting Englishmen from the annoyance of the passport system has been rendered complete by a circular of M. de Persigny ordering the prefects to give instructions that English subjects may be received in France on the declaration of their nationality, and affording them the advantage of visiting public buildings on the mere production of a visiting-card stamped by the agent at the frontier or a prefect of police.

THE SLAVE ANDERSON.—The Court of Queen's Bench in Upper Canada has decided in favour of the return of the unfortunate fugitive slave Anderson, under the provisions of the West India Treaty, one of the ancient despotisms. The prisoner's friends, however, have appealed to the Queen's Bench, and the judgment may be reversed. Public indignation is being very loudly expressed throughout Canada, and then fugitive slaves, one-half of whom might be reclaimed if Anderson is sent back, were naturally anxious for the result. If the man be returned an attempt at rescue is anticipated.

POLITICIANS IN THE PROVINCES.

MR. HORSMAN AT STROUD.

MR. HORSMAN addressed a stormy meeting of his constituents at Stroud on Wednesday. He said many unpalatable things on the Reform question and the Commercial Treaty:—

When he last had the pleasure of meeting the electors the all-absorbing question was that of Parliamentary Reform. That was a question on which candidates and Cabinets were alike to be tested. On Parliamentary Reform the Ministry of Lord Derby was defeated and expelled. On Parliamentary Reform the House of Commons was dissolved. On Parliamentary Reform the new Cabinet was constructed. Parliamentary Reform was their special mission—a comprehensive Reform Bill, that was the slang phrase. A large and comprehensive Reform Bill that should throw into the shade the Dilapidation measure of Lord Derby was the one pledge and purpose of its creation, and the condition and end of its existence. Two Sessions had now passed away, but where was the Reform Bill? In what corner of the Constitution were the promised thousands of new electors to be found? What service to the cause of reform had been rendered by Lord John Russell's legislation? The unscrupulous machinations and successful manoeuvres by which the public interests had been sacrificed to personal and private ends were fresh in the recollection of all present. Perhaps some of them might be still weeping over the grave of their buried hopes, and their feelings he desired to spare as much as possible. There was an impression in the House of Commons that it was the noble Lord's pledge with regard to the Reform Bill that caused the conversion of members to the treaty. It was supposed to have been found by the Reform Ministry was about to be brought to an untimely end by its own inability to grapple with reform; for when, in the recess, the Cabinet assembled to frame their measure, such ardent reformers were they that it was said the fifteen members of the Council held no less than fifteen different opinions on reform; and that such unflinching and uncompromising reformers were they that they did not agree on a single principle, and they differed upon every detail, until the fragmentary bill became a confused mass of useless statistics. But then something must be done to continue to the country the blessings of a Reform Ministry, even without the blessing of reform. It was stated that the wiles of secret diplomacy were set to work, and it was discovered that, although the most ardent reformers were sincere and determined on reform, they were much more ardent worshippers of peace, and of commerce as a blessed instrument of peace, and it was advised that if a Reform Bill could be supplemented by a good French treaty the Government might still go on and the Liberal caparison kept off the *Gazette*. The treaty was rapidly negotiated, and they could say—

"We struck in time, the bargain was agreed,
We still have shafts against a time of need;
The rats that always trust to one poor hole,
They never can be rats of any soul."

The treaty was recommended on two grounds—first, as a commercial transaction in the interests of free trade; and next, as a political transaction in the interests of peace. Now, he had objected to it on both these grounds. As a treaty of reciprocity he held it to be a departure from the principles of free trade, and therefore an abandonment of our national policy; and as a means of strengthening the alliance with France, and winning that great military power over to a policy of peace instead of war, he held it to be a practical delusion. . . . The Emperor must in two or three years have granted a more free commercial intercourse, and we had paid him twenty millions of money to induce him to do that which he would have done without any. But he had a still stronger objection to the treaty. It was a humiliating triumph of the Peace-at-any-price party, and he would state how it was achieved. There was a middle-class party—happy, a very small portion of the intelligent, and moral, and sound-hearted English middle class—so small that he hoped it had no disciples in Stroud—whose principle of action was, trade at any price; and there was enthroned in high places a more aristocratic party, whose principle had been place and patronage at any price. Now, these two parties had nothing in common except an inability to see or hear anything that did not tell in favour of their own views. He believed that they despised each other most cordially, but they assisted each other most effectually. He would not place them on the same moral level; for Mr. Cobden, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Bright had this very high title to our respect—we might deem them unsound in opinion, illogical in their conclusions, but we felt them to be strong because they were known to be sincere, and at times even fanatical in their belief. He would not degrade them by a comparison with mere purse-worshipping politicians, who possessed neither the fire of patriotism nor the pride of statesmanship—men who made merchandise of the Constitution and the safety of England by sudden conversions, not veiled even in the decent hypocrisy of converted sinners, but rather exhibiting the profligate audacity of some cool, calculating, skilful gamster, whose character was so well known that the surprised nobody whilst he stuck at nothing.

These remarks were frequently interrupted by cries of "Oh! oh!" hisses, and so on, though Mr. Horsman was listened to with greater patience when he spoke against the income tax. However, a vote of want of confidence was passed by the meeting. Mr. Horsman said that he hoped to represent Stroud for many years for all that.

THE RIGHT HON. E. CARDWELL, M.P.

MR. CARDWELL joined, as usual, the annual festival of the Ancient Druids, at Oxford, on New-Year's Day; and after his colleague, Mr. J. H. Langton, had spoken, he made a speech touching upon several of the topics of the day. Of the Commercial Treaty he said:—

You know that down to the beginning of this year a wall of protection, as impassable as the rampart which the Tartars built on the frontiers of China, fenced in the commerce of France, and a paralysed England and France, the two countries in the world most formed for friendship and mutual assistance. Well, by whom was that wall erected? There used to be commercial intercourse between England and France, but the historians of the last century tell us that by a treaty which, with mischievous ingenuity, we negotiated for our evil, our negotiators contracted with Portugal, we succeeded in securing for ourselves the commerce of that great commercial country, and excluded ourselves from the benefits of that great commerce with France which it is now by another treaty about to be opened to England. But great as are the material advantages of increased trade between France and England, in my judgment they sink into insignificance in comparison with the other and higher benefits that may be expected to follow in their train. How can you be surprised if the experience of the last and the early part of the present century has been a hostility between the two greatest and foremost countries in the world, when ill-contrived legislation shut them out from the reciprocal advantages of commercial interchange? But, now, break down the barriers between them, invite the people of both countries to increased intercourse and freer trade, and you bind them both in the recognisances of commerce to amity and concord; and I trust the civilisation of the world is destined to receive blessings yet unimagined from their extended relations.

Italy, of course, came in for a share of Mr. Cardwell's attention:—What does the great Minister of Italy tell you is his aim and object? Why, to raise his country after the example and according to the model of England, which he truly designates "the classic mother of liberty." And you know that with Italy the struggle is not over when the strife of arms has ceased; but the real question is, whether, when the victory in the field is won, her people will be able to build up for themselves those popular institutions by which they desire to be governed, which they have to create by their own wisdom and their own exertions, and which you, by the blessing of Providence, have derived as an inheritance from your ancestors, and mean to transmit unimpaired to your posterity.

As to our internal affairs:—

At home we have not, indeed, been blessed with a favourable season; but such is the industry and such has been the policy of the country that we can now meet an adverse season without being shaken to our centre, as we used to be in former times; and, notwithstanding the difficulties with which we have to contend, we have on every side a loyal, a prosperous, and a contented people. In these blessings I am happy to tell you that the sister island shares in a signal and remarkable degree. Ireland has been more severely tried, perhaps, by the harvest of the year which has just closed than her richer sister England. The time is not long gone by when her warm-hearted population had not the pursuits of industry open to them, for there were no means of obtaining wages for the labour of the day. But those times are now happily past, and in Ireland there is growing up a spirit of industry, a desire for improvement, and a thirst after knowledge and the blessings of education, which bid fair year by year to raise her more and more in the scale of nations. Depend upon it that, side by side, the two sister kingdoms will continue to flourish and improve, forming one united empire, the envy of surrounding nations, and the happiness of the people who inhabit them.

A RICH BOOBY.—The Sala delle Gemme, or Hall of the Jewels, in the National Gallery of the Vatican at Rome, contains, as you are aware, of which many are amongst the most precious known in the world—one the work of Benvenuto Cellini; the head of a warrior, enamelled and set in diamonds; vases, ornamented with rubies and diamonds; the richly-decorated handles of a dagger, set with rubies and diamonds; the celebrated green emerald, with its ruby setting, &c. &c.—a booty, in short, which the official Journal represents as not less than a million of francs in value, but which, it is whispered, may be rated at three that sum.



CINGALESE FISHERMEN IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CEYLON.

CINGALESE FISHERMEN.

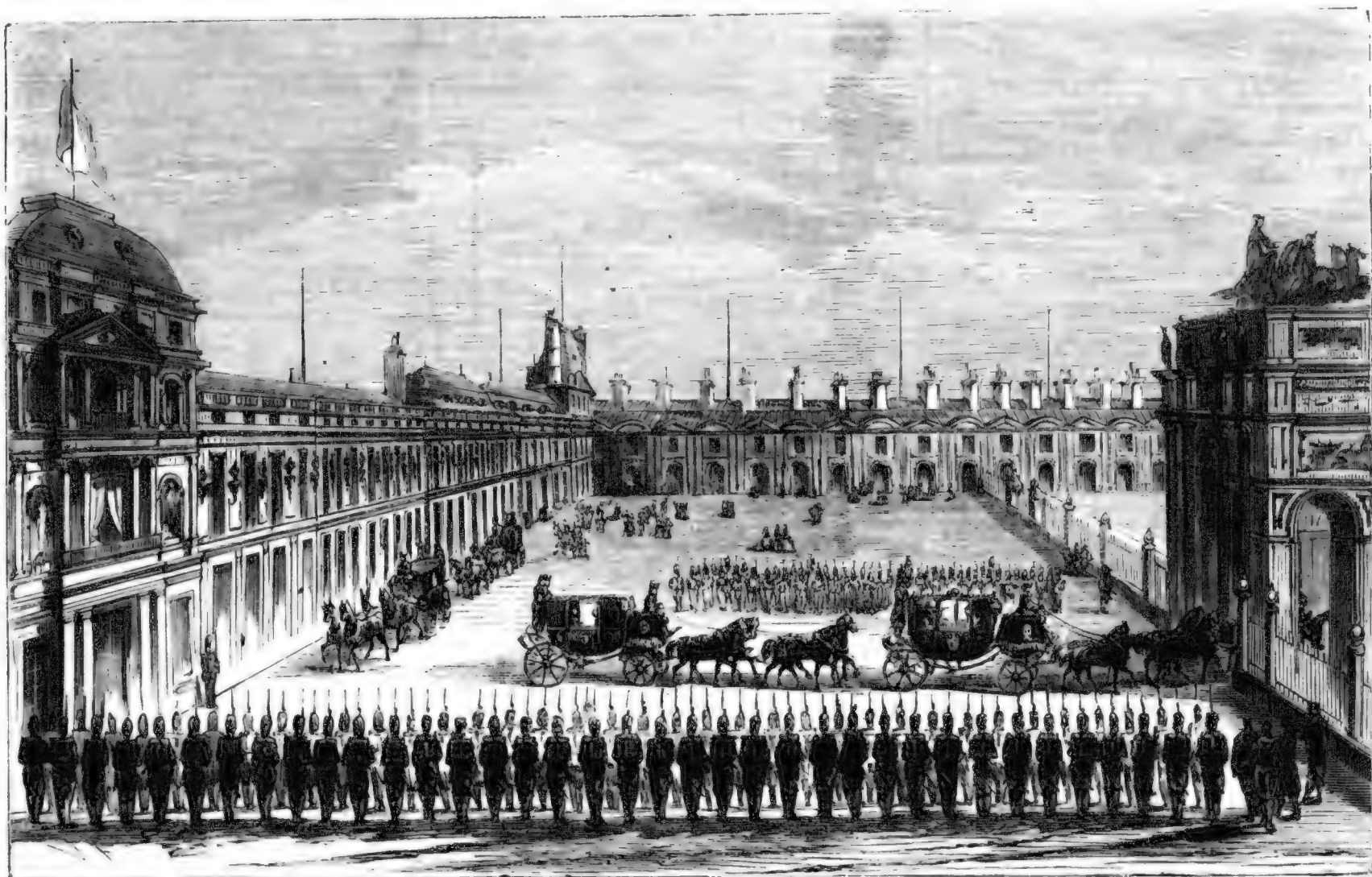
THE island of Ceylon has already become a valuable commercial dépôt for carrying on the trade of the British possessions in India, and its importance is likely to increase, now that new relations are about to be established with the Chinese. Less in extent than Ireland, Ceylon possesses such facilities of communication with the immense continent of India, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Manaar, that its value cannot easily be over-estimated, while its situation at the western entrance to the Bay of Bengal at once gives it geographical importance as a maritime entrepôt. In the southern and wider part of the island rises Adam's Peak, a mountain which only yields in height to one called Pedrolallagalla, with an elevation

of 8280 feet above the sea. This mountain is surrounded by a tract of high lands of irregular surface, but adapted for all the productions of temperate countries. There are in the interior of Ceylon several dense forests and some beautiful valleys, while the island abounds with rivers and mountain streams, the principal of which are the Mahawelli Ganga (the Ganges of Ptolemy), the Kalani Ganga, the Kalu Ganga, and the Walawe Ganga. These all rise in the central parts of the island, and are not navigable for vessels of any considerable burden.

At Trincomalee and Point de Galle, however, there are harbours capable of containing the largest ships, while the roads of Colombo afford during certain seasons a fine and secure anchorage. At Trin-

comalee the fleets of the whole world might rest in safety even in the worst season. There are four smaller ports on the S.E. and five on the N.W. coasts. Indeed, the water facilities at Ceylon are altogether remarkable, since from a very early period the people seem to have been aware of the advantages of irrigation, and in the maritime provinces, at a very remote date, canals with stupendous embankments were constructed by the Cingalese to connect extensive salt-water lakes.

The climate of Ceylon varies singularly on the different sides of the island, since it is principally influenced by two monsoons, so that the eastern portion is hot and dry like that of Coromandel, while the western is temperate and humid. The place, however, is eminently



RECEPTION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT THE TUILERIES ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

healthily. Besides iron and plumbago, the gems called rubies and cats' eyes are found at Ceylon, while a great variety of timber abounds. Coffee and tobacco are the principal vegetable commodities; but there is a large trade in oil, which is expressed at Colombo by machinery. The animals, beside the herds of elephants, are deer of several species, wild hogs, peafowl, &c.

Of course, with such abundance of lakes, rivers, and harbours, a very large proportion of the native Cingalese exist by fishing; and although they labour, perhaps, to little profit, yet their wants are few. It must be remembered that it was not till 1832 that the labourers of the soil were set free from slavery, and that the people have already attained very considerable progress, and gladly avail themselves of all the improvements introduced by their European rulers.

The most lucrative of the fisheries, except the pearl-fishing, was formerly that for chanks; and the demand for these was at one time so great that the right of fishing was sold by the Government for 60,000 rix dollars per annum; and, indeed, the chank fishery was in itself an excellent training for the divers who were afterwards taken to the pearl banks. The most valuable of these are off Condachy, extending about thirty miles in length and twenty in breadth. The season lasts from about the 5th of March to the 10th of April during the calm weather, and during this time the wages earned by the diver considerably exceed those of ordinary employments. There certainly should be some inducement for men to undertake a task so arduous as diving for pearls, although the occupation is not deemed unhealthy, since the natives believe that divers live longer than other labourers.

There have, of course, been numerous fabulous accounts of the time during which these pearl-fishers are able to remain under water; but it is now pretty generally known that they seldom exceed fifty to sixty seconds in six or seven fathoms, while a reward offered to the man who should remain longest was gained by one who disappeared for eighty-seven seconds.

Our Engraving represents the ordinary Cingalese fishermen, who, taking out their light canoes, and paddling with the short oars, take the fish of all descriptions with which the coasts and streams abound.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY AT THE TUILERIES.

If the ancient oracles are extinct, their place has been supplied for modern Europe by the revelations which flow from the lips of the mighty seer of the Tuileries on the first day of the new year, when the Emperor "receives" the diplomatic corps. Well may men shudder at these predictions, for the prophet has their accomplishments entirely in his own power. If he predicts war, there will be war; if he announces peace, there will be peace. On the present occasion the ear of Europe has been disappointed. It has pleased this Sphinx, on whose utterances we hang with so much attention, to give us but a dark and uncertain answer—no positive announcement of evil, no sure promise of good. In 1859 the destruction of a quarter of a million of human creatures was decided by a few simple words regretting the badness of the relations prevailing between France and Austria. Diplomats laboured indefatigably; endless plans of reconciliation were prepared; the English Ambassador was converted into an Envoy of the French Emperor, and Europe was repeatedly assured that the danger which threatened her peace had passed away; but it was all in vain. Of the words of the 1st of January not one jot nor one tittle fell to the ground, and in six months the peace of Villafranca was signed.

The words of the Emperor this year were, "I regard the future with confidence, being convinced that the friendly understanding of the great Powers will assure the maintenance of peace, which is the object of all my desires." No doubt these utterances were listened to with feelings of relief by the diplomatists concerned, and their carriages must have carried away from the Tuileries lighter hearts and more composed countenances than entered the gates an hour before.



COLOSSAL BRONZE STATUE OF WILLIAM FREDERICK III. OF PRUSSIA.
(PROFESSOR DRAKE, SCULPTOR.)

STATUE OF KING WILLIAM FREDERICK III. OF PRUSSIA.

THE annexed Engraving is a representation of a colossal bronze statue which the inhabitants of Colberg, in Prussian Pomerania, have determined to erect to William Frederick III. of Prussia in commemoration of the heroic defence by which their town saved the honour of the Prussian kingdom at the period of her greatest danger. Professor Drake, of Berlin, celebrated for his talent in the department of monumental art, is the sculptor who received the commission for the work. In the figure which he has produced William Frederick III. is not portrayed as the patriarchal Citizen King, in which character he appears in the marble monument (also the work of Drake) erected in the Thiergarten at Berlin. The Colberg statue represents the King draped in the regal ermined mantle, and with one hand grasping the hilt of his unsheathed sword. The right hand rests on the turretted summit of a low tower, symbolically picturing the fortress of Colberg, which at the time of the siege was the real bulwark of its Sovereign.

The statue is 8½ feet in height, and rests on a lofty granite pedestal, ornamented with bronze medallions. The figure, as we have before stated, is enveloped in the regal mantle—an arrangement which rendered the production of artistic effect a task of some difficulty; but the clever and apparently unstudied disposition of the drapery is admirable. The head is beautifully modelled, and, like the statue in the Thiergarten, it combines with fidelity of portraiture a certain ideality of character and expression.

The noble effect of the monument will be considerably heightened by the situation in which it is to be erected. The site appropriately chosen is the courtyard fronting the Townhall of Colberg. The figure will seem, as it were, inclosed by the two projecting wings of the building, whilst the façade will form an architectural background as grand and beautiful as the sculptor himself could have conceived or desired.

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

At the present season, when novelties in ball costume are eagerly sought for, we direct the special attention of our lady readers to our Illustration (fig. 3), which is copied from one of the latest and most approved Parisian models. A dress in the same style may be made in crape or in tarletane; the colours are, of course, entirely optional, and may be determined by the taste of the wearer. We may add that for ball dresses of a particularly showy character transparent tissues, embroidered with gold and silver, are much employed. In ball coiffures also gold and silver are profusely introduced.

The sad accounts of the distress at present prevailing among the poor ribbon-weavers of Coventry naturally suggests as a ready mode of affording relief the revival of ribbon trimmings on evening dresses. For some time past ribbon has been discarded in favour of passementerie, velvet, and various other materials; but certainly, for a ball dress, nothing can exceed the beauty and lightness of ribbon. It may be disposed in an endless variety of ways: in ruches, in plaitings, or in flat rows, to say nothing of bows, rosettes, &c. These considerations will, we doubt not, cause ribbon to be less sparingly employed than it has been of late in the trimming of ball dresses.

Amongst the most admired evening headdresses recently made in Paris we may mention one destined for a foreign Princess. It is composed of red velvet, and is in the form of a diadem. In the centre a superb agraffe of diamonds serves to fix a plume of white feathers. Another coiffure of singular elegance consists of a gold net, each mesh fastened with a bead of bright gold. This net incloses the hair at the back of the head. Across the forehead is a bandeau wreath of ivy-leaves veined with gold. Gold tassels and rubans d'amour fringed with gold complete the parure.

As we mentioned in our last, fur trimmings for velvet mantles, pelisses, basquins, &c., are becoming decidedly fashionable. In Paris broad bands of sable, chinchilla,



FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

or Siberian squirrel are frequently seen on mantles of black velvet. With a mantle thus trimmed a small muff of the same fur is indispensable. Velvet bonnets are usually trimmed with feathers and lace. Frequently the front and bonnet of a velvet bonnet is of some transparent material, as crape or tulle, and covered with black lace.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1.—Robe of Havannah-coloured watered silk. The corsage and skirt are cut without separation. Sleeves of the bell form, with revers turned up at the ends. Collar and under-sleeves of worked muslin. Cap of white blonde trimmed with blue ribbon, and a small square voilette falling in full folds at the back.

Fig. 2.—Robe of black silk of the form called *La Gabrielle*. The open front is edged with a piping of cerise-coloured velvet, and a row of cerise velvet buttons extends from the bottom of the skirt to the top of the corsage, gradually diminishing in size as they ascend. The corsage has bretelles, which descend below the waist and join the pockets at each side of the skirt. These bretelles are finished at the shoulders by ends or *pattes*, edged with fringe. The sleeves are nearly close at the wrists, where they are finished by broad turn-up cuffs. The pockets, bretelles, cuffs, &c., are all ornamented with piping of cerise-coloured velvet. Collar and under-sleeves of guipure. Headdress, bows of black and cerise velvet.

Fig. 3.—Ball dress composed of white and pink tulle. There are six skirts—three pink and three white. The lowest skirt is white, and is edged with a ruche of tulle. The others, which are ranged pink and white alternately, are gathered up in festoons, fastened by bouquets of roses and lilies of the valley. The corsage is pointed at the waist, and has draperies of tulle, pink and white, disposed alternately. In front of the corsage and on the shoulders there are bouquets of the same flowers as those on the skirt. The short sleeves are formed of bouillons of white and pink tulle. Headdress, roses and lilies of the valley.

Fig. 4.—Robe Louis XV., of grey glacé, with flounces of green and grey glacé, cut at the edges and ranged alternately. Five of these flounces run round the lower part of the skirt, and others are disposed as a *tablier* trimming in front. The low corsage and demi-long sleeves are trimmed with narrow frills, corresponding with those on the skirt. Cap of point lace, with a bow of mauve coloured ribbon. Under-sleeves of lace.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

BOTH our opera-houses are given up just now to M. Victor Massé and the great pantomimic quartet—"Queen Topaze" and a harlequinade at Her Majesty's Theatre, a harlequinade and "The Marriage of Georgette" at Covent Garden. The music of the little one-act "Marriage of Georgette" (its original "Les Noces de Jeanette" was, we believe, M. Victor Massé's first opera) appears to us fresher and more melodious, as it is certainly more unpretending, than that of "Queen Topaze." In this latter work the great attraction is Mlle. Parepa's vocalisation, which is, indeed, marvellously brilliant. The part of the Queen—who, as the reader is aware, is one of those gipsy heroines first celebrated by Cervantes in "The Gipsy of Madrid," and, more recently, by M. Scribe and his followers in a multitude of comic operas—was written for Mlle. Miolan-Carvalho, and abounds in airs and passages calculated to display to advantage the great executive powers of that exquisitely singing "light soprano." Every one who frequented the Royal Italian Opera last season remembers Mlle. Miolan-Carvalho in "The Barber of Seville," and that, in the music-lesson, she introduced "The Carnival of Venice," with variations. This is the great air in "Queen Topaze," and Mlle. Parepa gains immense applause every night by her manner of singing it. Nevertheless, the variations are by no means vocal, and are far less beautiful than they are difficult. Mr. Swift and Mr. Santley have both very small parts in "Queen Topaze;" but what little they have to do they do well. The great weight of this remarkably light piece falls upon the prima donna, and Mlle. Parepa certainly supports it admirably.

At the next of the Monday Popular Concerts, which is announced to take place next week, M. Vieuxtemps, the celebrated violinist, will make his first appearance in England since 1852, and will lead in Schubert's quartet in D minor. Miss Arabella Goddard will be the pianist, and will perform, with M. Vieuxtemps, Beethoven's sonata in C minor.

Herr Schnachner, the well-known pianist and composer, is at Leipzig, superintending the rehearsals of his oratorio, which is to be performed on the 12th of January. A great success is anticipated for this work by Herr Schnachner's German friends, and his numerous friends in London will be glad to hear of that anticipation being realised. The libretto of Herr Schnachner's oratorio, which is on the subject of the Israelitish captivity in Babylon, is from the pen of Herr Geibel, the most popular of living German poets, and (as we understand) is for the most part paraphrased from passages in the Psalms and in the Prophets which have especial reference to that sad but poetical period of Jewish history.

The London Glee and Madrigal Union, under the direction of Mr. Land, will resume their popular entertainment of Old English Vocal Music, consisting of glees, madrigals, and ballads, on Monday, at the Egyptian Hall.

"Dr. Mark and his Little Men" are engaged by Mr. Mitchell for a series of concerts at St. James's Hall. The first will take place on the 12th.

The Burlington Album of Pianoforte, Vocal, and Dance Music.

This is a handsome musical gift-book, magnificently bound in crimson and gold, and containing fifteen pieces of music by popular composers, together with several highly-finished and effective coloured lithographs, by way of illustrations to the dances and songs. A representation of a mediæval ball accompanies a quadrille founded on old English airs, and arranged by William Ball. "The Water-lily Quadrilles," by Ricardo Linter, have suggested to the artist of "The Burlington Album" (Mr. Harry Maguire) a lilylike water nymph, with appropriate surroundings, and so on. The first piece of music in the volume is a graceful "Romance" (without words) for the piano by A. Schloesser. Mr. A. Wright contributes a waltz, Mr. Wright a ballad, entitled "Thy voice is near" (words by Mrs. Fenton Aylmer), Mr. Cherry another ballad (words by Mr. Douglas), Mr. Brinley Richards an elegantly-written "nocturne," Mr. H. D'Orsay a set of quadrilles on airs from "Robert le Diable" (illustrated with a terrific design), Mr. W. Vincent Wallace his effective transcription of "La Luvisella" (already noticed by us as a separate publication), Mr. S. Glover a trio for three soprano voices ("The Three Sisters; or, Faith, Hope, and Charity"), Carlo Minasi a polka (called "The Moonshine," and illustrated with a comic drawing), H. Litolf an agreeable and brilliant impromptu ("Clair de Lune"), Miss Lindsay an effective setting of Longfellow's "The Old Clock on the Stairs," G. F. West an arrangement of "Santa Lucia," and Adam Wright a polka on the melody of "The Young Recruit."

AN AMERICAN NOTION.—The *Liverpool Daily Post* publishes a private letter from Mobile in which there occurs the following extract:—"I hope Queen Victoria will lend us twenty or thirty of her man-of-war ships to assist our commerce. If she keep good faith with us there is no telling what might happen. I would not be surprised to see a good sound constitutional monarchy here in three years. We are a Republic an aristocracy already; and sooner than allow the country to be destroyed by emancipation of the negro, we boldly look to a strong Government, and who would suit so well as one of Queen Victoria's sons? You then would be our friends out and out. Our eight States are as large as all Europe, save Russia, and here is the foundation of a great people, negroes and all. We want foreign commerce, the establishment of the useful arts, and we want liberalism, the arts and sciences, and we have riches enough for all this."

SEVERAL SERIOUS BOILER EXPLOSIONS (the domestic boiler is here meant) have taken place within the last few days, in consequence of the feed-pipes having become frozen.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

LORD PALMERSTON ON THE VOLUNTEERS.

LORD AND LADY PALMERSTON assisted on Thursday week at the ceremony of presenting colours to the 10th Hampshire Volunteers. The flag was the present of Lady Mill, of Mottesfort Abbey, and was presented by Mrs. Henderson, wife of the commander of the corps.

In the evening a dinner was given—Captain Henderson in the chair.

Lord Palmerston, in reply to the toast of his health, after expressing the pleasure he felt at taking part in the ceremony that day performed, said:—

It is impossible for any person who has any share in the responsibility of conducting the affairs of this great country not to take the most lively interest in this volunteer movement, which, although of recent origin, has attained so important a development; and it would be difficult for any person who sees how this movement has been progressing, and what features it has assumed in his own immediate neighbourhood, not to feel proud, as I do, of the corps which has been raised in this town of Romsey. We are, perhaps, gentlemen, too apt to be carried away by names, and to attach distinctions to words which do not exist in things. We have been accustomed to think the volunteer force of the country as differing too essentially from those other military and naval arrays by which this country is to be defended. But although the force to which you belong has been peculiarly and emphatically called a volunteer force, you must not forget that you are in that respect, in regard to the nature of your service, standing precisely on the same footing as the army, the navy, and the militia. You are all volunteers; for, in this country, fortunately, the loyalty and the public spirit of the people are such that we are not compelled to resort to forced and conscribed service. Every man who serves his Sovereign and his country in this happy land is a volunteer, and therefore, although you may emphatically and by way of distinction be called the volunteers of England, you must not assume to yourselves any peculiar merit for your voluntary services as your share, although no doubt you would share the glories of the army, the navy, and the militia, if ever your country required your services. It was said in former times that we were not a military nation, that we were skilful and brave upon the ocean, but our tastes and habits did not lead us to equal military distinction. But there are certain historical records of the Peninsular War and Waterloo that sufficiently refute any opinion of that sort. Let me call to your mind—you who are essentially civilians—the manner in which men, equally civilians, placed in the most difficult circumstances, have shown that they belonged to the same heroic race as yourselves. I refer to the events which took place in India during the sepoy mutiny. You there saw civilians scattered in small numbers throughout different parts of an immense empire, attacked suddenly in different parts of the country—attacked, too, by a superior force—and you found them bravely and stoutly defending themselves, resisting everywhere, and displaying in their conduct not only that bravery which belongs to them as Englishmen, but military skill, which could hardly be expected from men untrained to war. The result was, that the exertions of the civilians, in concert with those of the troops who happened to be there, were sufficient to quell the mutiny before reinforcements could arrive from England.

LANCASHIRE RIFLES AND LORD DERBY.

A meeting has been lately held in Lancashire, under the presidency of the Lord Lieutenant of the palatinate, for the purpose of "forming a County Rifle Association." The reports inform us that there was a large attendance of noblemen and gentlemen on the occasion, and amongst the speakers was the ever-active, ever-practical Lord Stanley. The Earl of Derby was not present, but forwarded a letter in which he expressed his general approval of the objects of the meeting, and offered some practical remarks as to the manner in which the association should be inaugurated and developed.

The speakers dwelt with freedom upon the necessities which existed in a country like ours for a civil arm of defence, but, at the same time, they were careful not to indulge in empty claptraps or idle abuse of any Continental Power. Lord Stanley said:—

When the first novelty of the undertaking has passed away, and when European politics have settled down, the rifle may not be so fashionable a weapon as it is at present. We want, therefore, a regular organisation; and the object of that organisation should be not merely to induce men to connect themselves with the movement—not merely to induce them to join particular corps, but to induce them to give to themselves the two qualities, without which no volunteer corps is valuable for military purposes—discipline and skill as marksmen.

The Earl of Derby pointed out the dangers which must necessarily surround district organisations of the character of that contemplated, and described the means by which these dangers might be either averted or overcome. The first difficulty the noble Lord conceived to be the growing desire there was throughout the country to turn rifle corps into rifle clubs. To avoid any unnecessary increase of subscription, and the misappropriation of funds, he had a suggestion to offer:—

In laying down the rules for county rifle associations, the first practical step must be to provide the "sinews of war," not for a temporary but for a permanent object; and, with this view, I should suggest that whatever contributions are made should be either in the form of annual subscriptions, or, if given in a lump sum, that sum to be invested in the names of trustees, and the annual interest alone to be expended. Now, as to the application of any funds which may be raised, the amount of which need not be very large, provided they are certain, I think they should be limited to two objects—First, the providing an adequate number of ranges for practice at long distances, to accommodate the various districts of this large county; and, secondly, the establishment of certain prizes to be annually and permanently given, subject to alterations from time to time by a committee, the appointment of which, after the principles are settled, shall be the very first step.

Rifle-ranges, the Earl suggests, should be a charge on the permanent funds of the association; no ground should be adopted which does not give, at least, a nine hundred yards range; these grounds, when taken, should be free for the practice of any corps from any part of the county; and every county ground should have a permanent staff attached to it of three or four men to attend to each target:—

Now, as to prizes. I would limit them to money or to pieces of plate; and I would absolutely exclude everything in the shape of medals to be worn, which, if allowed, would have a tendency rather to cast ridicule than distinction on the wearer. The prizes should be fixed and announced by the committee at the commencement of each year. Their amount must, of course, depend on the funds at their disposal; but I should lay great stress on the condition that prizes given by the association should be competed for only by members of some accepted rifle corps or of the two years' regular service. I would not discourage the offer of prizes for shooting by individuals on other conditions; but I would make them subject to the sanction of the committee, and especially if intended to be shot for on days assigned to the association's prizes.

Thus inaugurated, the Lancashire Rifle Association can scarcely fail to be successful.

THE CITY BRIGADE.

Lord Clyde has addressed a letter to Colonel Hicks, of the City Brigade, expressing his approval of the soldierlike appearance of that corps on the occasion of the recent City presentations. He says:—"Though in my passage from the Court of Common Council in the morning, and into the Mansion House in the evening, I had little opportunity for observation, I was struck with the soldierlike bearing of the corps. When a more genial season arrives it will give me great pleasure to be permitted again to see the regiment with whose appearance I was yesterday so much gratified."

PRESENTATION OF A SWORD TO SERGEANT-MAJOR GARWOOD

The ceremony of presenting an elaborately-embossed sword and belts to Sergeant-Major Joseph Welham Garwood, of the 1st Middlesex Engineer Volunteers, was performed on Christmas Eve in the theatre at Cremorne Gardens—Sapper W. Hall in the chair. After some evolutions performed by the members, for the gratification of the ladies who were seated in the galleries, the Chairman opened the proceedings and introduced the secretary, who delivered an eloquent speech to the effect that we cannot overvalue men who, after having served their country, come forward to impart the knowledge that makes the weak man strong, and the strong man stronger. After a compliment to the ladies for their presence, he girded the recipient with the sword. Sergeant-Major Garwood, in returning thanks for the honour done him, said that the expression of the sentiments

of the corps towards him would associate its members with his most grateful recollections, and more than ever induce him to devote his best energies to their general benefit. After a vote of thanks to the chairman, the proceedings were concluded by the singing of the national anthem. The whole affair came off with great élat.

DRILL-SHEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS.

The want of large covered spaces for the drilling of volunteers in the evening is much felt. It is difficult to find buildings sufficiently spacious, and the cost of erecting them has been beyond the means of most corps. Captain Fowke, R.E., has lately constructed a shed at South Kensington for the use of the 1st Middlesex Engineer Volunteers, which seems to have solved the problem of economy. The shed is 90 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, and about 25 ft. high; it is made of wood, without framing, covered with felt and oil-canvas. The cost has been only £82, which has been paid by the Volunteer Engineers out of their own subscriptions. A large meeting is to take place on the 12th inst. at the South Kensington Museum, in aid of the building fund of the Lambeth School of Art, and it is proposed that this occasion shall be used to exhibit this drill-shed to the public, in order to show volunteers at what a trifling cost they may be provided with covered spaces.

EXTRAORDINARY ATTEMPT AT MURDER.

A MOST extraordinary story, which reads more like a romance of the days of Dick Turpin or Jack Sheppard than an event of our own times, comes to us from Dublin. The scene opens with a stranger ordering a large quantity of ready-made clothing at Messrs. Hyam's establishment in Dublin, paying a small deposit as a pledge of good faith. A porter, named Mulholland, was dispatched with the parcel to the hotel where it was ordered to be sent, but was met on the way by a young man who pretended to be angry with him for being so late. This person then took the porter up a dark lane, unlocked the doors of a stable, and pretended to be fumbling for a match. The porter unsuspectingly offered to furnish him with this article, and searched his own pockets for that purpose. While he was thus occupied the stranger suddenly fired a pistol in his face, but, fortunately, beyond the powder singeing his hair and the ball passing through the cartilage of his nose, it did him no injury. A struggle then ensued between the two men, during which Mulholland severely bit one of his assailant's fingers. The cries of the porter at length attracted the attention of some police-constables. Of course, as soon as advancing footsteps were heard the ruffian fled. The strangest part of the story now remains to be told. When the stable was examined a newly-dug grave was discovered, by the side of which were placed a pickaxe and shovel; and that this grave was intended to receive the body of the unfortunate porter there can be no doubt.

The discovery of a pocket-book in the stable afforded the police a clue to the intended assassin, a young man named Dwyer, who is said to be the son of respectable parents in Dublin, and a well-educated man. He was arrested in a house in Church-street. He would probably have made off but for want of funds. On being searched, his pockets were found to contain a shilling, some keys, a guardchain, and a Roman Catholic devotional book, entitled "The Spiritual Combat." One of the fingers of his right hand was marked near the top joint, and another finger was dressed, as if wounded.

On Monday Dwyer was examined at the Capel-street Police Court. A shopman employed by Mr. Hyam deposed:—

I sold the prisoner goods on the 27th of December. He gave me his name as Richard Hanson or Anson. He asked to see a suit of clothes. I sold him first a dress-coat price £2 2s., and then a dress-coat price £1 4s.; vest, 10s. 6d. Afterwards he said, "Now, show me a top-coat." I showed him several. He seemed hard to please, but ultimately I pleased him in one, which he selected, at £3 10s. Afterwards he said, "Now, show me a pair of tweed trousers and vest." I did so, at £1 5s. The cashier made out a bill, which I handed to him. I asked him if he was going to pay for them now, and he said, "No; I will pay for them on delivery, but I will leave a deposit." He opened his purse, and took out half-a-crown. I said, "You had better make it 10s." He replied, "I have not 10s. to spare, but I will make it 5s.," which I took. "Be particular," he said; "let them (meaning the clothes) be at the Commercial Hotel, on Usher's-quay, at five o'clock exactly."

William Mulholland detailed the circumstances of the assault as above described. He swore positively to the prisoner being the man who attacked him.

A Miss Kane, of Capel-street, declared that a few days before she had sold to the prisoner a pistol with spring bayonet, such as was produced in court; while another witness deposed that on the 21st of December she had sold him a pickaxe and shovel. A Mrs. Croker said she had let the stable on the 27th to Dwyer, through the mediation of some lad whom she did not know.

The prisoner was committed for trial, Mr. Curran for the defence stating that at the proper time he would clearly prove that for the last twelve months Dwyer had been of unsound mind.

LAUNCH OF THE UNDAUNTED.—The Undaunted, 51, one of the improved class of large screw-frigates now under construction for the Navy, was launched from Chatham Dockyard on New-Year's Day. Though the Undaunted is nominally classed as a frigate, she is considerably larger than most of the line-of-battle ships now afloat, being only two feet less than the screw three-decker Prince of Wales, 131 guns, launched a short time since at Portsmouth, and nearly double the tonnage of many of our line-of-battle ships built a quarter of a century ago. Her armament will be an exceedingly formidable one of 51 guns, which will be thus arranged:—Upper-deck, one 68-pounder pivot-gun of 95 cwt., and twenty 32-pounders, each of 58 cwt.; and main-deck, thirty 8-inch guns, each of 65 cwt. Her figurehead is a colossal bust of a British sailor. Although the weather was exceedingly unfavourable for the spectacle, a large number of spectators were present to witness the launch. Miss Johnstone, the eldest daughter of Vice-Admiral W. J. Hope Johnstone, Commander-in-Chief at the Nore, performed the ceremony of "christening" the ship.

HOOPER v. WARDE.—The Lord Chancellor has ordered the name of Mr. Warde, of Clifton House, in the county of Warwick, the defendant in the action of "Hooper v. Warde," recently tried in the Court of Queen's Bench, to be struck out from the commission of the peace for that county. After receiving an answer to a letter addressed to Mr. Warde, calling upon him for his defence, the Lord Chancellor decided that, in his evidence given in the trial referred to, Mr. Warde showed a recklessness of conduct, and an unconsciousness of the distinction between right and wrong, which proved him to be a person wholly unfit to be intrusted with the power of taking part in the administration of the criminal law.

A CLOWN NAMED ALGAR, after performing in a pantomime at the Great Yarmouth Theatre yesterday week, died suddenly in the dressing-room. The poor fellow had long been suffering from lung-disease.

A SHARP "PULL UP."—The *Melbourne Argus* states that Sergeant Maguire, of the Liverpool detective police, has effected the arrest of a man charged with the murder of his wife, for whose arrest a warrant had been granted in England, and who it was known had sailed for Melbourne in company with the sister of the murdered woman. Maguire arrived in Australia by the September overland mail, and, as the vessel by which the alleged murderer had sailed was 118 days on the passage, he had time to make all his arrangements, so that the man was arrested immediately on the ship entering Port Phillip waters, and before he had an opportunity of landing.

INDIAN REVENUE.—The revenue accounts from India are stated to be so far satisfactory that there is no probability of any aid being required beyond the £3,000,000 which the President of the Indian Council is at present empowered to raise. It is also said that the necessity for that addition to the debt will be attributable almost solely to the inability of the railway companies to obtain at present any further funds on their Five per Cent. Debentures.

MAZZINI.—Mr. Mazzini, who dates from London, has addressed a letter to the secretary of the Sheffield Garibaldi Fund in answer to a letter inviting him to attend a soirée in that town. The writer alludes hopefully to the battle which is to be fought in Venice, and which will be accompanied, he says, by a rising in Hungary. He suggests that possibly a grand demonstration of public opinion in favour of non-intervention in the Venetian and Roman questions. In conclusion, he complains of the calumnies which have been heaped upon himself, and points to the fact of Italian unity which is now being realised as a proof that in his political faith he has been the reverse of a visionary.

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